





# Strike cutting off 40% of revenue, civil servants say

Photograph by Brian Harri

The note ended by giving a warning that unless the money was paid the boy would be "disposed of."

He told police that his abductor came in a two-door, greenish Vauxhall Viva with torn upholstery.

Mr. Stanley Crump, Cambridgeshire's Assistant Chief Constable, said his top priorities had been the boy's safety, the protection of the money and the arrest of those responsible. He added: "I do not expect any early developments, but I think it would be a long, hard inquiry."

In Liverpool, nine Ministry of Defence computer staff walked out, and the unions said their action will hold up \$50m worth of payments made each week to defence contractors.

Officials of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation last night said that the Inland Revenue management was taking Milton Bridge army barracks camp in the Gloucestershire borders, south of Edinburgh to sort cheques that would normally go to the strikebound Cumberland offices.

TSF pickets are expected at the depot this morning, after they followed GPO officials in a car chase through central Scotland yesterday.

## Councillor shot at his home in Belfast

and public relations spending up by 69 per cent, and social work and research spending, increased by 53 per cent.

Mr Gregory singled out the phenomenal increase in housing and building spending which he says was caused by an ambitious expansion in property development and by overspending against original estimated costs.

Compared with other councils, Lambeth's total spending was higher than any other London borough, and its population had been growing much faster than the average of inner London boroughs.

The report concludes: "Lambeth has serious problems of overspending; there have not been solved. Until they are, we will continue to rise much faster than private income. This is avoidable if the electors of Lambeth refuse to tolerate financial mismanagement and the needless excesses of an extreme political faction."

**From a Staff Reporter Belfast**

A Belfast city councillor, Samuel Miller, was shot at his home in Denmark Street, in this city, last night. He had leg and abdominal wounds.

Mr Miller, aged 42, who was believed to have been attacked by three men was elected in 1973 to the council as an Independent Unionist. He has been associated with the Ulster Defence Association, the main Protestant paramilitary group, in Northern Ireland.

Meauville, police in Dublin said yesterday, that they were treating the attack on Mr George Armstrong, the Irish prosecutor, shot three times in the legs while lecturing Trinity College, as an isolated incident.

Mr Armstrong was flown to England yesterday morning and was taken to Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, Coventry, where he was visited by his wife and three children. It was said to be comfortable.

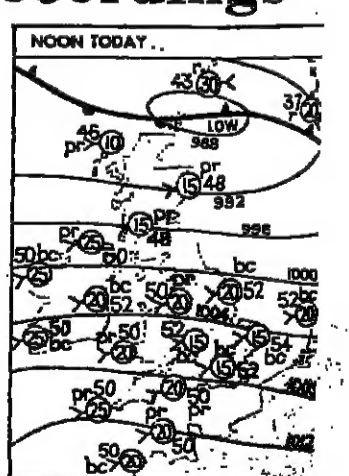
Police have denied responsibility for the attack. Last night, and the police are working on the assumption that it was a "freelance" act by both the Provisional IRA and the National H-Blocks Committee denied involvement.

the demands in the report stages debate next week. Last night Mr John Gorst, a leading Tory campaigner, joined with Mr John Golding, a Labour MP and member of the Post Office Engineering Union, in tabling an amendment that will be backed by the Opposition.

The amendment removes some of the objections made by Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, in that it does not call for parliamentary

Under the Gorse-Golding proposal, the statutory provisions would make it a criminal offence, to intercept any message carried on the public telecommunications system or to instigate any person in the business of the corporation to intercept a message or disclose the contents of a message unless a warrant had been issued.

## Weather forecast and recordings

[illegible]

The National Gallery has been given its most important group of paintings for nine years. The gift, which includes two Corots, comes from Mrs Alice Bleeker, niece and one of the heirs of Rudolf Brandt, the banker, who originally collected the works.

	C	F	C	F	
droplets	4	39	Cologne	7	44.5
air	28	82	Copenhagen	8	46.4
intercom	14	57	Florence	7	44.5
air	28	82	Genoa	7	44.5
caracina	20	68	Genova	6	42.8
air	28	82	London	6	42.8
erlin	12	54	Gumert	11	52.2
termoda	27	81	Helsinki	11	52.2
air	27	81	Helsinki	11	52.2
erminum	14	57	Isotani	17	62.6
air	28	82	Isotani	17	62.6
sects	17	63	London	21	70
air	17	63	L. Panna	21	70

Central Highlands, NW Scotland: outbreaks of rain, becoming more showery, sunny intervals; max temp 9°C (48°F).

Orkney, Shetland: Periods of rain, heavy at times; wind E, fresh, becoming variable; max temp 5°C (41°F).

**MIDDAY:** c, cloud; d, drizzle;

[illegible]

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# 200 pigs are slaughtered because of disease

By Hugh Clayton  
Agriculture Correspondent

More than 200 pigs were destroyed on a farm at West Ardsley, West Yorkshire, yesterday because they were found to have swine vesicular disease. There were no outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease.

The two diseases are caused by viruses which produce similar effects in animals. But foot-and-mouth spreads much faster, affects many types of animal and is much less frequent in Britain.

Almost 2,000 animals have been slaughtered and buried this year because of both diseases at a cost of compensation to farmers of more than £100,000. Last year nearly 10,000 pigs were slaughtered because of swine vesicular disease.

An attempt to avoid spreading foot-and-mouth disease, the Ramblers' Association has appealed to walkers to avoid the restricted areas of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

**It closed:** The Deer Park at Andover was closed to the public yesterday, and barriers and warning signs were placed across all entrances, as a precaution against foot-and-mouth disease. The deer section is part of the 4,000-acre Great Park Estate in Berkshire.

## Foot-and-mouth fear at auction

### Cattle sale goes ahead despite NFU warning

From John Withersow  
Chichester

A cattle auction went ahead at Chichester market, West Sussex, yesterday despite warnings by the National Farmers' Union that it was irresponsible to hold one so close to the area restricted because of foot-and-mouth disease.

Many farmers, however, stayed away because of the outbreak in the Isle of Wight, and most pens remained empty. Only about a third of the cattle expected at a normal spring sale were put up for auction.

The NFU believe all movements of people and animals that could spread the disease should be discouraged, but the Ministry of Agriculture said the Ministry of Agriculture said the Wight and around the Solent is adequate at present to control the outbreak.

All visitors to the market at Chichester, which is about 20 miles east of the restricted zone, were made to drive and walk over disinfected straw at the entrance and exit.

Mr John Willis, the Chichester auctioneer, defended the sale and said he had not been put under any pressure from the NFU. "We have taken advice from the Ministry of Agriculture vets, and they said we can open," he said. "We have a duty to the public to provide a service."

He said all necessary precautions, including banning any cattle from the restricted area, had been observed, and added: "If I thought there was one shadow of risk in having the market, I would not hold it."

Farmers tend to buy stock in a spring sale; unusually, most of the cattle sold yesterday were for slaughter. Farmers from Hampshire were discouraged from buying because of the risk of taking animals into a restricted area.

One farmer, Mr Jack Brazier, of Arundel, said the market was "ridiculous" because so few cattle were for sale because of the danger of the outbreak spreading.

Mr Roderick Kynoch, a Ministry of Agriculture veterinary surgeon, who was checking the animals, said the sale could proceed because it was outside the restricted area.

An official of the south-east region of the NFU said, however, that because of strong winds and the possibility of birds carrying the disease, holding auctions so close to the restricted zone was an additional risk. The union wants all markets near the area, especially at Chichester, Haywards Heath and Guildford, to be cancelled for two weeks.

## Woman wins Peace tax fight

From Our Correspondent  
York

Miss Jennie Aste, a peace campaigner, of York, has won the right to pay 40 per cent of her income tax by separate cheque because she wants to divert directly to the Ministry of Overseas Development to help the needy.

Miss Aste, aged 28, a self-employed bookbinder, took her case to the Inland Revenue through Mr Alexander Lyon, Labour MP for York. She plans to help others to get the same concession through the Peace Tax Campaign.

Our Business News Staff writes: An Inland Revenue official said yesterday that they were still making inquiries about the case.

It seems unclear what practical consequence, if any, the ruling will have. An individual's income tax bill is not allocated in whole or in part to any Government department.

Equally, authority to spend money as far as the Ministry of Defence or the Ministry of Overseas Development is concerned is in no way connected to individual income tax payments.

Miss Aste may get moral satisfaction from the arrangement, but it is not clear how the money collected by the Government in whatever form ends up in the Treasury.

# BR plea for £5,700m modernization

By Michael Bailey  
Transport Correspondent

A modernization plan for Britain's railways that would require overall investment of £5,700m in electrified main lines, improved commuter services, low-cost rural railways and a Channel tunnel was announced by British Rail yesterday.

Investment should be raised from £306m to £567m a year until 1990, British Rail states; without it, the railways will continue to decline and 3,000 miles of track will have to close.

Introducing the proposals at a press conference in London, Sir Peter Parker, the chairman, said: "We are not trying to terrorize the taxpayer but to keep the picture steadily in view. There are certain things in this package we must do, and others we could do to point the railways in the right direction."

"We are entirely realistic about the state of the economy, and we are asking for a commitment first and cash later."

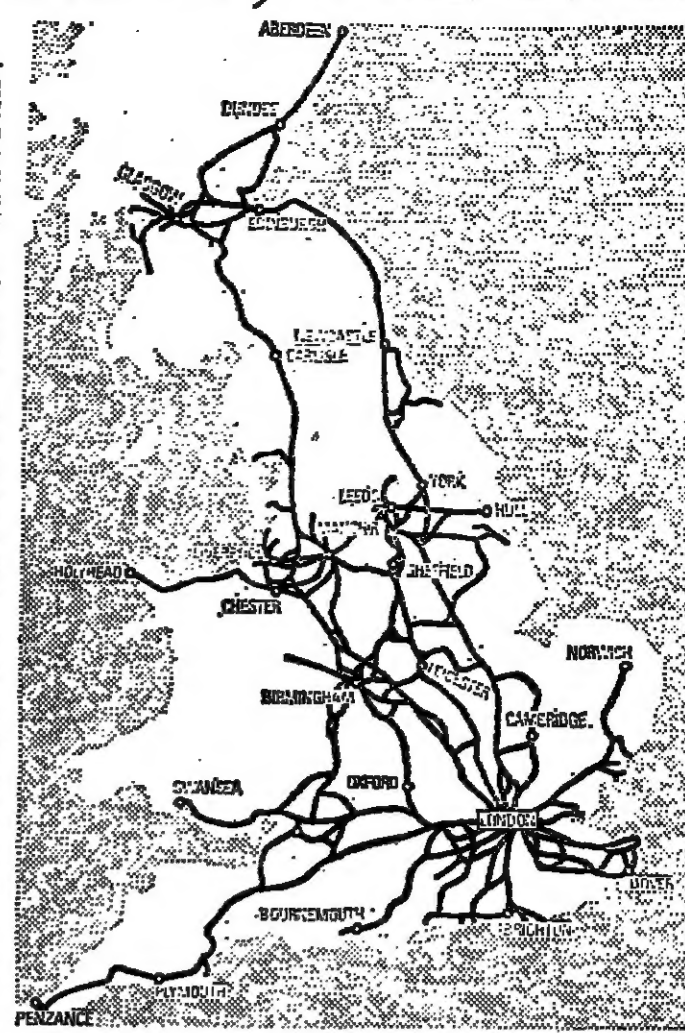
British Rail proposes a new contract with the Government to pay for the "social railway", those parts that are uneconomic but socially valuable, and greater private sector involvement in the commercial service, for freight, parcels, and inter-city passenger transport.

After years of under-investment the railways were reaching a "dividing of the ways" between an improved railway and a run-down of the system. British Rail could not continue the present investment policy beyond 1983; decisions needed to be taken this year about the direction thereafter.

The main decision to be taken in "weeks rather than months, and days rather than weeks", Sir Peter said, was approval for main-line electrification costing about £1,000m over 20 years. A joint British Rail and Department of Transport study reported recently that the scheme would yield an 11 per cent real return, and Sir Peter described it as the backbone.

A reduction of 30,000 in staff over the next five years is envisaged, with the reduced workforce earning higher real wages. Whatever productivity gains were made, extra investment funds would still be needed, Sir Peter said.

The proposed increase in annual investment would cover:



The routes BR wants to electrify over 20 years.

COMPARATIVE INVESTMENT IN EUROPEAN RAILWAYS IN 1980	
West Germany	£918m
France	£827m
Italy	£714m
Britain	£411m
Belgium	£346m
Netherlands	£191m
Denmark	£67m
Irish Republic	£21m
Luxembourg	£15m

Source: International Railway Journal.

renewal of worn-out assets, including catching up on the present backlog of replacements (72m a year up to 1990); improving London and South-east commuter services (97m more a year); main line elec-

trification (£36m a year); improved services to Gatwick airport and possibly Stansted (£10m a year); and BR's share on a Channel tunnel (£51m a year).

Another area for investment would be improving staff working conditions, which have suffered badly in recent years.

The report concludes that "there is no serious doubt in anyone's mind that a railway network of major proportions is necessary to the efficient operation of the country as a whole, and that it is of considerable benefit to millions of people who travel for leisure or holiday purposes".

Locomotive multiple unit availability down from 85 to 70 per cent.

Diesel multiple units availability down from 80 to 60 per cent.

Loco-hauled coach availability down from 85 to 75 per cent.

Signal failures up from 4 per cent to 10 per cent annually.

Train delays up from 5,000 hours now to 8,500 hours, rising

from 75 to 50 per cent.

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Loading article, page 15

## Mr Harold West fights Fermanagh by-election

From Christopher Thomas  
West

Mr Harold West, landowner, geologist, and veteran of political intrigues in Northern Ireland and former MP, is to meet the Fermanagh and South Tyrone by-election for the Official Unionist Party.

His selection ended any chance of finding a compromise candidate between the Official Unionists, historically a party of government, and the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party.

The DUP, for once outmanoeuvred by its bitter rivals, was dismayed last night. There is prospect of its offering support to Mr West because of inextricable association with party that Mr Paisley has been deriding, with increasing venom, for a decade.

Mr West's troubles worsened yesterday when Mr Roy Kells, part-time Ulster Defence Regiment lieutenant with no political affiliations, who something of a local celebrity after surviving two IRA attacks and four bombings in a drapery store, fled not to stand.

## White-collar pickets slow production of BL cars

From Clifford Webb  
Birmingham

White-collar pickets sealed off BL's Longbridge car plant yesterday, preventing deliveries of complete cars and slowing production of the Metro, Mini and Allegro models.

The strike, in protest against 120 compulsory redundancies, was supported by all but a handful of the 4,500 staff. The solidarity of the response and the militancy displayed by a normally moderate section of

the workforce took the management by surprise.

Managers and superintendents kept internally stocked components flowing to the assembly lines, operating a computer-controlled components warehouse for the Metro.

But few external supplies got through and there was a shortage of engines normally delivered by lorry.

The two-day strike is due to end tonight, to be followed by as yet undisclosed action by the four unions involved.

## Report links illness and bad housing

By John Young  
Planning Reporter

High rates of infectious diseases, respiratory ailments and mental illness among tenants on a Liverpool council estate were directly linked to unsatisfactory housing conditions, a government report published yesterday suggests.

Infectious diseases were traced to the unsanitary conditions of mobile food vans which took advantage of the lack of shops on the estate.

Respiratory illnesses were believed by doctors to be connected with defects in the ducted warm air system, dampness from drying clothes in flats because drying rooms had been made unusable by vandals, and lack of fresh air among children whose parents were afraid to let them out.

Depression among isolated housewives was particularly common, the report states. Several serious accidents had included that of a young child falling off a balcony.

The North Lee estate, Liverpool, is one of several examples of unpopular housing examined in the report by the Department of the Environment's housing development directorate. Together they provide a grim picture of lives that have been needlessly worsened by indifferent local authority management and by insensitive architectural design.

The report, *An investigation of difficulties in housing*, is one of several which were published together yesterday, and to which Mr John Stanley, Minister for Housing and Construction, referred in a speech to a conference in London organized by the Housing Centre Trust.

Mr Stanley reaffirmed his belief that the best way of improving housing conditions was to make home ownership available to as wide a public as possible.

He announced that the grant limits on properties improved by local authorities and housing associations for subsequent sale was to be raised from £5,000 to £10,000 in London, and to £7,500 elsewhere.

## SPCA loses a st case on chicken cruelty

A test case brought by the SPCA against a chicken ducer, alleging failure to use painless deaths of fowls human consumption, was dismissed yesterday. The case, which has important implications for Britain's chicken industry, was due to last three hours but was dismissed within an hour.

The RSPCA had brought a total of 18 charges against four men and a chicken company, alleging that an unknown number of birds, estimated at more than 120, had been slaughtered without first being anaesthetized.

The total of 18 charges were against the company, Chickens Ltd, of 100, Low Road, Brackley, Northants, and 73 against four men.

The alleged incidents took place between May 9 and September 6 last year. Mr John Smith, for the defence, argued that the Magistrates' Court did not have jurisdiction to hear the case because the summonses had been properly examined by a qualified clerk.

## Attacker armed with crossbow sought by police

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

West Midlands police were yesterday hunting for the attacker of two men, one of whom was shot in the neck by a bolt fired from a crossbow.

Mr Caramat Hussein was standing in the street near his home in Small Heath, Birmingham, on Tuesday when a green van drove up and a man leapt out of the window and fired at him.

He was taken to East Birmingham Hospital for an emergency operation to remove the bolt, and yesterday his condition was not serious.

Soon afterwards Mr Richard Coates, aged 30, of Keynham, near Bristol, was returning to his car in a car park at the Tivoli Centre, in Coventry Road, Birmingham, when he disturbed a man apparently trying to break into it.

Mr Coates was struck on the head by what appeared to be a handgun and threatened.

The man ran off, chased by two members of the public, and discharged the gun. Mr Coates was treated for head injuries and discharged.

## Charge over demolition

Our Planning Reporter

private prosecution for the illegal demolition last of a group of listed seventeenth-century almshouses is to be heard by magistrates in Lincolnshire, today.

The defendant is Sir Bruno Welby, owner of the cottages.

The prosecution has been brought by Mr David Pearce, secretary of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. It is believed to be the first private prosecution under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1971.

## Vitnes tells of policeman's request

Michael Horsnell, 45, denies three charges of corruptly accepting a total of £150 from Mr Perry during October and November, 1979.

The Crown alleges that the former detective fled the country before his trial at the Central Criminal Court in 1972 and returned only last year, and that he first met Mr Perry on September 24, 1969, at Camberwell police station, in south London, where he was based.

Mr Perry, then aged 22, from Peckham, south London, had been arrested by provincial detectives in connection with the theft of some cigarettes from a Co-operative store in Nuneston.

Mr Perry told the court: "While I was in the cell Mr Symonds poked his head round the door and we had a conversation. He said someone had told him to see me. I had never spoken to him before."

He said if the Coventry police asked what he was doing there, he would tell them he was inquiring about some clothes found at my flat. I took that

over your mouth or something."

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Mr Perry told the court: "While I was in the cell Mr Symonds poked his head round the door and we had a conversation. He said someone had told him to see me. I had never spoken to him before."

He said if the Coventry police asked what he was doing there, he would tell them he was inquiring about some clothes found at my flat. I took that

just to be an excuse for him to be in the cell."

He said: "I do not think they have got anything on you, but if they have got a finger-print tell them you will plead guilty to Section 1, theft, because that only carries 12 months maximum."

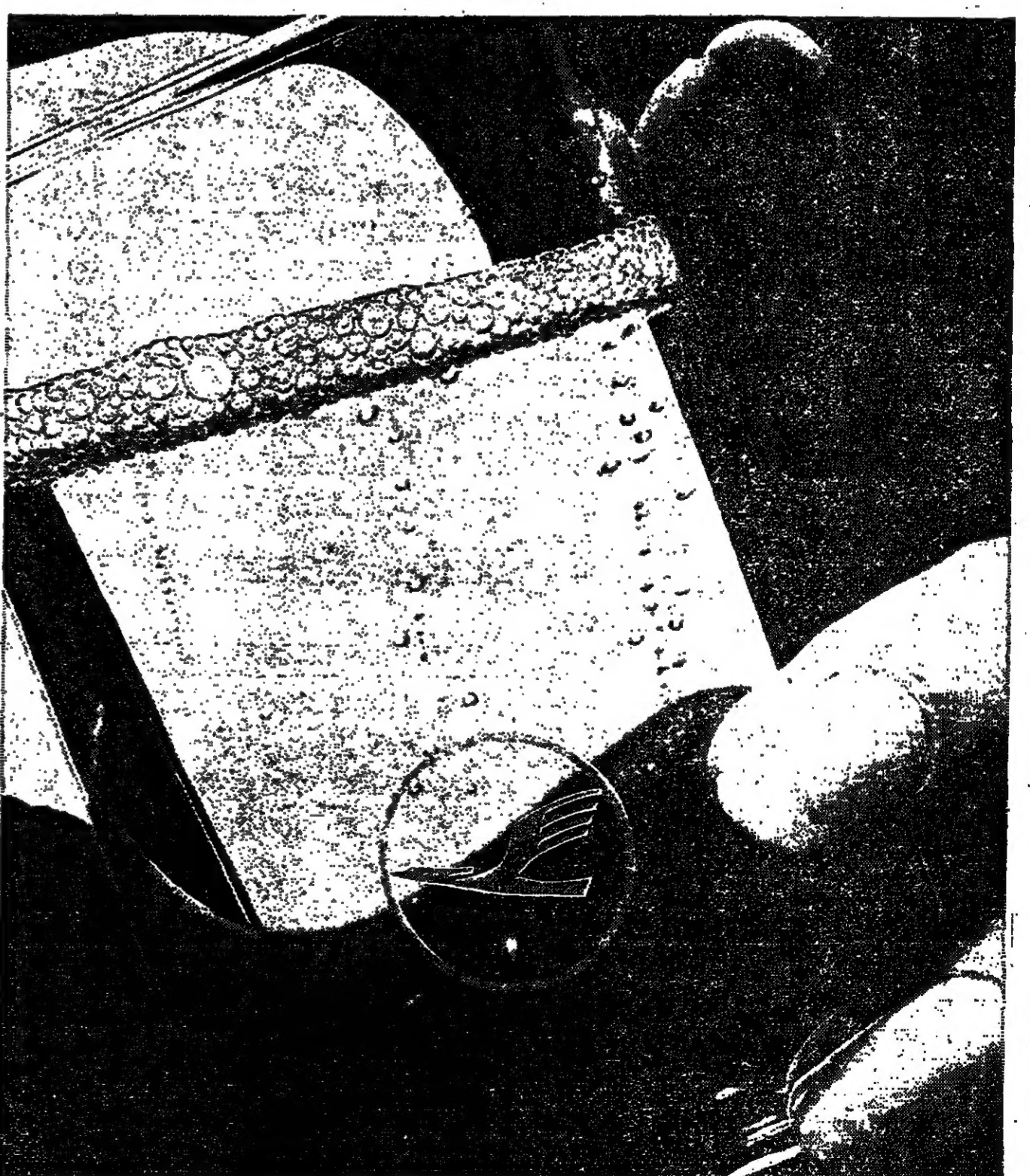
Mr Perry thanked him and said he would see him all right at a later date. In October Mr Perry received a letter from the police at Nuneston telling him that proceedings would not be brought.

Shortly before that he had met Mr Symonds outside the Rose public house, in Camberwell, when, Mr Perry said: "He told me that I would get off the Nuneston job and he said it would cost £200. I thought he was being a bit greedy. I had a sum of £25 in mind."

Later that month Mr Perry decided to "say something to somebody" and was introduced to Mr Gareth Lloyd, a reporter from The Times.

The trial continues today.

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## Secondary pupils should study curriculum of at least six subjects, go vernment paper says

By Diana Goddes  
Education Correspondent

All secondary school pupils should study mathematics, science, English, religious education, a humanities subject and physical education up to the age of 16, the Government says in a paper on the school curriculum, published yesterday.

It is the first time since the passing of the Education Act, 1944, that a government has offered guidance on what ought to be taught in schools. Local authorities will be asked to report back after two years, explaining what progress they have made towards meeting the objectives set out in the paper.

Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, accepted yesterday that he had no power to force local authorities to comply, but he said a circular would be issued shortly and in practice local authorities feel they have a responsibility to act.

The paper points out that while the Government has a duty to promote education, and to that extent is required to take an overall view of the content and quality of education, it was up to local authorities, school governing bodies and teachers to decide on the detailed content of the curriculum.

Throughout the paper the need to achieve a broad and balanced curriculum for all pupils is emphasised. Too many pupils were allowed to drop key subjects, particularly from the age of 14.

Excessive emphasis on examinations could also lead to distortions in the programmes of individual pupils. A combination of examination courses did not always provide a balanced curriculum.

In addition to the six-subject "core" curriculum, opportunities should be provided for practical and aesthetic activity, and for experience with com-

puters; and as many pupils as possible should be encouraged to continue to study a foreign language up to the age of 16. At primary level, the curriculum should include mathematics, English, science, history, geography, religious education, physical education and aesthetic and practical studies. French should be introduced only where there was a qualified teacher and assured coordination with secondary schools.

Throughout the paper, it is emphasised that how something is taught is as important as what is taught. Guidance had been issued on subjects, but a subject title did not indicate the content or level of study, or the extent to which it was meeting learning objectives.

Some essential educational elements were not found in particular subjects, but should be provided across the curriculum. They included an understanding of the multi-cultural nature of British

society, the effects of technology on employment, and the equality of men and women.

Another essential area was personal and social development. Every school should make clear to parents its aims in moral education, and would soon be required under new regulations to publish information on the ways and contexts in which sex education is provided.

The Government's discussion document, *A framework for the curriculum*, published a year ago, contained controversial proposals that minimum periods of time should be allocated to certain key subjects such as mathematics. Those have been dropped from the latest paper because the Government feared that the minima would either be treated as norms or interpreted too rigidly.

The school curriculum (Department of Education and Science and the Welsh Office, Stationery Office; £2).

## Films 'could be lost forever'

By Kenneth Gosling

Rare film footage may be lost forever unless the public is given a greater awareness of its value to the heritage, Mr Anthony Smith, director of the British Film Institute, said last night.

Referring to a three-year standstill in the budget for the National Film Archive's 24-year programme for converting dangerous nitrate film to safety stock, Mr Smith called for a switch in the balance of national priorities in preservation.

The entire archive and all its expenses cost annually as much as a single important acquisition for the National Gallery, he said.

All that was now required, he told the Royal Society of Arts in London, was the equivalent of an additional small impressionist painting to restore the momentum of the nitrate programme.

## Second Oxford college to waive exam entrance

By Our Education Correspondent

A second Oxford college has decided to offer places to candidates on the basis only of an interview and the minimum university matriculation requirements, two grade Es at A level.

Balliol College announced yesterday that from next year it will be making unconditional offers to about twenty pupils a year from schools unable to provide special tuition for Oxbridge entrance.

Hertford College has operated an unconditional offer scheme open to pupils at any type of school since 1965. It won reluctant agreement from the other colleges earlier this year to expand the scheme to apply to 30 per cent of its intake.

Although Hertford's scheme has proved a resounding success, other colleges have until now refrained from following suit for fear that it would open the flood gates and lead to the demise of the university's entrance examination as the normal route of entry.

Three other colleges, including Oriel, are known to be considering introducing similar schemes.

Mr Colin Lucas, admissions tutor for Balliol, said that the chairman of the university's management committee, which represents the admissions tutors of all the colleges, had cleared Balliol's scheme under the agreement allowing colleges to make conditional offers up to a fifth of their intake without requiring candidates to take the entrance examination.

Proposals supported: The Councils yesterday gave its approval to Local Education Authorities to allow colleges to make conditional offers up to a fifth of their intake without requiring candidates to take the entrance examination.

The council decided that the new body should not finance public sector higher education by a direct grant from Government, as the University Grants Committee does, but should levy contributions from local authorities.

## Challenge by MPs on sex life snooping

By Pat Healy  
Social Services Correspondent

The Government is expected to respond today to growing disquiet about social security officials prying into the sex lives of single mothers.

Questions tabled by three Labour MPs ask how often information about sexual relationships is used in proceedings against putative fathers and how much money is recovered as a result.

The questions were tabled after disclosures about secret instructions to officials to ask detailed questions about sex lives where single mothers claiming supplementary benefits have not sought maintenance.

The instructions, which the Department of Health and Social Security have confirmed are current, include asking when and where sexual intercourse first took place, how frequently afterwards and during what period of time.



Bruce Reynolds Roy James Gordon Goody James Hossey Charles Wilson Tommy Wisbey Roger Cordrey James White Robert Welch Ronald Edwards

## All except Ronald Biggs have served out sentences

## Eleven men who robbed the train and have now been released

By a Staff Reporter

Eleven men were convicted for their part in the Great Train Robbery of August 8, 1963. Apart from Ronald Biggs, who has been at large since escaping from prison in 1965, all have served jail sentences and been released. The 11 are: Ronald Biggs: Sentenced to 30 years, he escaped from Wandsworth prison in July, 1965, when an armed gang broke in and released him with three other prisoners. He has been living in Brazil, successfully resisting attempts at extradition.

Roger Cordrey: A former florist, he was sentenced to 20 years after admitting the crime and was released after serving seven years.

Ronald "Buster" Edwards: Evaded capture for three years, went to Mexico, but surrendered in September 1966. Sentenced to 15 years, he was released on parole in April, 1975, but went back to prison the same year after being convicted for stealing goods worth £65 from Harrods in London. On

his final release set up a flower stall at Waterloo station, in London.

Gordon Goody: A former hairdresser, sentenced to 30 years and released on parole in 1976. Sold vegetables from a lorry in south London.

James Hossey: Former house painter, sentenced to 30 years and released in December, 1975. Worked on market stalls in London.

Roy James: A talented racing driver and silversmith, he was caught by the Flying Squad four months after the robbery in a rooftop chase in St John's Wood, London. Sentenced to 30 years, he was paroled in August, 1975, and became a builder and decorator.

Bruce Reynolds: A former antique dealer, he evaded capture for five years, living in Mexico and the south of France, and was arrested in a villa in Torquay in November, 1963. He was sentenced to 25 years in January, 1969, and released after serving 10 years.

Robert Welch: A former club proprietor, he was sentenced to 30 years and released on parole in June, 1976. On his release he became a car dealer.

James White: A former paratrooper, he was the quartermaster for the robbery, responsible for stores and vehicles. He evaded capture for three years but was arrested in April, 1966, and sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment. He was released in April, 1975, and became a painter and decorator.

Charles Wilson: A former bookmaker, he was sentenced to 30 years but escaped from Wandsworth Prison, Birmingham, in August, 1964, four months after the end of the trial. He eluded capture until January, 1968, when he was arrested by Chief Supt Tommy Butler and 12 Monties near Montreal, in Canada. He was released in December, 1978.

Tommy Wisbey: Another former bookmaker, he was sentenced to 30 years and released on parole in March, 1976.

## Lords told of closed shop's three 'bad men'

By Hugh Noyes  
Parliamentary Correspondent

Lord Gowrie, Ministry of State at the Department of Employment, last night stepped up the Government's campaign against the closed shop where he took the unusual course of naming the chairman of the Sandwell Council, West Midlands, its personnel director as a local trade union official: "thoroughly bad men by a normal ethical standard."

He told the House of Lords during a debate on the close shop policies of certain local authorities that their action were "thoroughly wicked."

The men named by Lord Gowrie were Mr John Edward chairman of the council who dismissed Miss Joanna Harr for refusing to join a trade union, Mr Hodgkins, the personnel director, and Mr Faux, the National and Local Government Officers' Association.

Lord Gowrie said he hoped that the electors of Sandwell were alert to the kind of action being undertaken in their name. Mr Faux, Lord Gowrie added had faced council employees with the chance of joining a union or being dismissed a hard-headed man who had no conscience about doing so.

Councillor Edwards claimed that his council had mandated from the electorate for employee membership on force.

Lord Bruce of Donington from the Labour front bench said that if Miss Harris felt she had been maltreated or unfairly dismissed then remedies were open to her.

Lord Gowrie's attack on Sandwell council came at a time when the Government is being pressed hard by sections of the Conservative Party to introduce stricter legislation to control that aspect of industrial relations.

The Prime Minister last week urged all those with expertise of the operation of closed shop to submit their views to James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment.

Parliamentary report, page

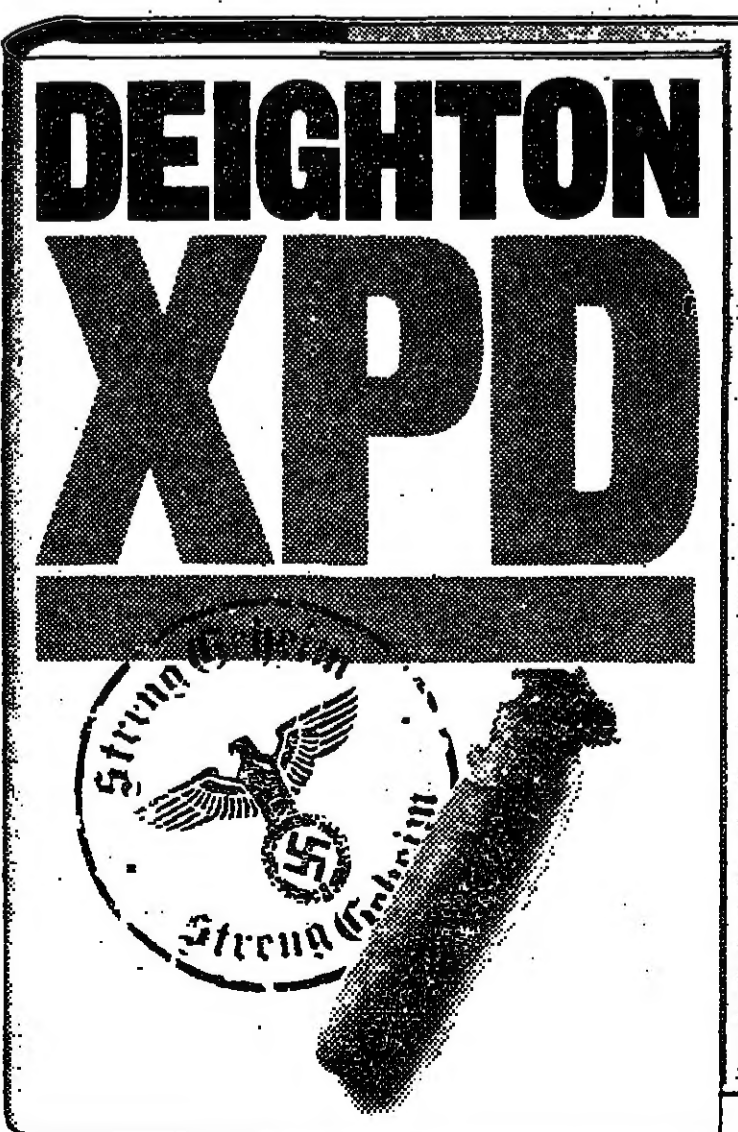
# 'Terrific'

'Here is a book cram-full of virtues. Let me list them higgledy piggledy. The writing. If this were a mainstream novel, critics crying "Marvellously sensitive" would indicate that the writing alone justified the work. As it is, caught up in the splendidly strongly told story, you hardly notice the innumerable felicities. Then there is the character drawing, ranging confidently through different societies, British, American, German, and succeeding, for example, in putting before us a thoroughly unprepossessing con-man in a way that cannot stop us liking him as we like a good friend. Shifts in relationships, subtle and slight, are handled with equal skilfulness.

Then there is that special characteristic of the espionage novel, the presentation of curious, hard-to-learn facts, here done as well as ever it has been whether of behind-scenes Russian activity or *sub rosa* Whitehall. But what about the dialogue? It is deliciously sharp and flawlessly accurate. Plotting? The book is a breathtakingly clever to-and-fro duel between the British secret service determined to suppress a

hands-shaking meeting between Churchill and Hitler in 1940, even if it means XPD (expedient demise) for someone, and equally ruthless opponents. And that's a pretty terrific plot, too... And I still have not mentioned the overall intelligence that seems to spark out from almost every line.'

H.R.F. Keating, *The Times*



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## Era ends for plane that never cost a life

By Arthur Reed  
Air Correspondent

British Airways' last VC10 airliner will make its final scheduled flight on Sunday from Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, to Heathrow, after which the fleet will be retired, having carried in 17 years about 13 million passengers without a fatality.

The aircraft is to be handed over to the Royal Air Force, which has purchased all 14 in the fleet.

The VC10, conceived by Vickers in 1957, was one of the last great individual products of the British aircraft manufacturing industry, but its purchase by British Overseas Airways Corporation, BA's predecessor, caused violent controversy.

When he was appointed chairman of BOAC in 1964 the late Sir Giles Guthrie tried to cancel the entire order of 30 Super VC10s and replace them with 14 Boeing 707s.

But the plan was countermanded by Mr Julian Amery, the minister responsible, on the ground that it would do extensive injury to the British industry.

## 'That's Showbiz' to end early

After causing much dissension with performances on Sundays, the West End variety show, *That's Showbiz*, will close on Saturday, a week earlier than scheduled, because of heavy losses incurred in its seven-week run at the Phoenix Theatre.

Nevertheless the producers, Stephen and Fiona Kendall, Lane, still hope to mount a new variety show at the Phoenix, starting some time next month. A decision is expected in the next few days.

## Actress misses a show

Barbara Windsor, the actress, who fainted on stage on Tuesday, did not appear in last night's performance of *Entertaining Mr Sloane* at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, west London, on the instruction of her doctor. She hopes to return to the cast tonight.

## Betting clerk's luck

Mrs May Toone, aged 50, of Baldock, Hertfordshire, gave up her job as a betting shop clerk at Letchworth yesterday, on hearing that she and her husband had won £28,000 on the pools. She said: "I always left the horses alone."

## Doctors reject guidelines for psychosurgery

By Nicholas Timmins

The Royal College of Psychiatrists has rejected the idea of laying down guidelines on the treatment of patients by psychosurgery, in which a small part of the brain is destroyed in an attempt to alleviate psychiatric conditions such as severe depression.

It is, however, to advise its members that a second independent psychiatric opinion should be sought before a decision to operate is taken.

Professor Gerald Timbury, chairman of the public policy committee of the royal college, said yesterday: "We feel that guidelines similar to those we have published for ECT (electroconvulsive therapy) are not required because the operation is performed very infrequently."

About seventy such operations are performed in England and Wales a year.

The college, however, is to study whether an independent panel should advise on the operation in the few cases where it is considered for patients detained under the Mental Health Act.

The college's decision was disclosed yesterday by Larry Gostin, legal director MIND, at an open day held at the Geoffrey Knight Psychiatric Unit at Brook Green Hospital at Woolwich in south-east London, which perform about two-thirds of the psychosurgery operations in England and Wales.

Mr Gostin said the advice to seek a second opinion was "step forward, but probably not enough."

MIND favours the creation of independent panels to examine cases, a proposal that may be included in a new Mental Health Bill.

The open day was held to the unit to counter criticism of the operation, which involves side-effects. Dr J. Bridges, the psychiatrist at the unit, said the operation was carried out as a last resort to patients who have not benefited from more conventional treatments, such as drugs and ECT.

## Motorists left in doubt after speeding decision

The RAC called on the Home Office yesterday to make an early statement about the use of police radar guns in speed traps. A motorist at Newport Crown Court, Gwent, on Tuesday won his appeal in a speeding case. Two electronics experts said the gun could give false readings, particularly if a police car radio near by was switched on.

An RAC official said yesterday: "It has resulted in many motorists who feel they were wrongly convicted being left in a serious doubt whether they are entitled to a free pardon."

He added: "Since the introduction of radar guns the RAC has been concerned about ways in which they are used. Our earlier concern about these guns has been more than vindicated by the judge's decision."

## Lavatory dash costs £30

A motorist's high-speed dash to the lavatory cost him £30 yesterday. In his rush, Lawrence White, a company director, drove through a police radar trap at 90 mph.

But after hearing that he was suffering from diarrhoea, magistrates at Burnley, South Yorkshire, decided to let him off lightly. Mrs Mary Thompson, the chairman, told him: "In view of the circumstances we shall only fine you £30 and endorse your licence."

## Police chief asks blacks for help

By Peter Evans  
Home Affairs Correspondent

Sir David McNee, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, spoke yesterday of the responsibility of black people to do something about law-breakers in their midst. He also expressed concern about difficulties facing those investigating the Deptford fire, in which 13 black people died, and the state of race relations in London.

In an address at St Lawrence Jewry, London, Sir David said: "Where the black community

has in its midst some who offend against the law then it is as much their responsibility to do something about it as it is mine—in the same way as it is my responsibility as commissioner to root out dishonesty and corruption within the Metropolitan Police."

Sir David also drew attention to the difficulties inhibiting the investigation into the Deptford tragedy in his speech.

Scotland Yard yesterday dismissed as conjecture suggestions that the person or persons who started the Deptford fire

died in it. A report was on its way to the Director of Public Prosecutions, who would decide what to do.

Sir David's address coincided with the release of Home Office statistics of serious offences recorded in 1980.

Homicides recorded included many associated with fires started deliberately: 47 deaths occurred in two London fires in March and August, 1980, and 23 deaths occurred in nine fires in the Hull area in the period 1973-78.



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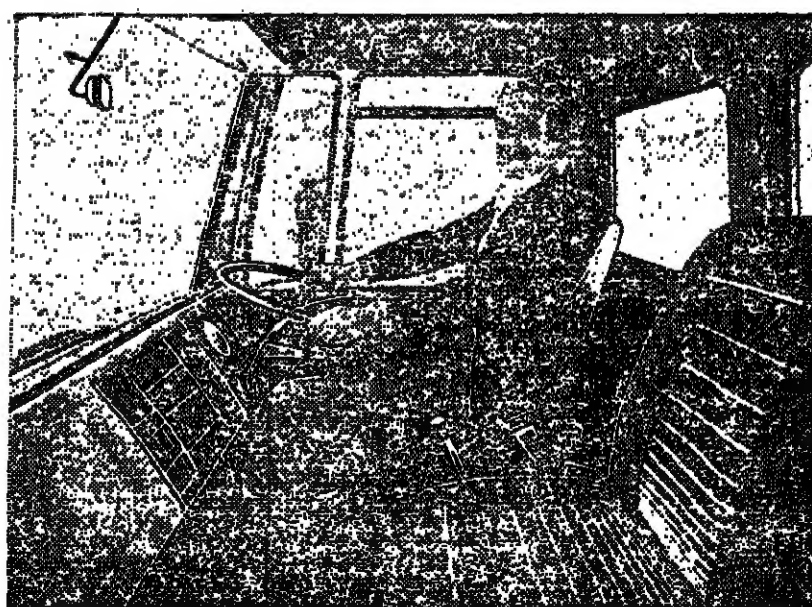
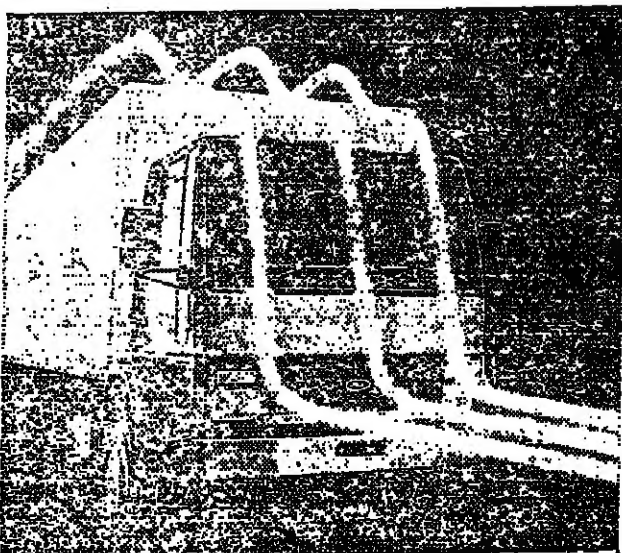
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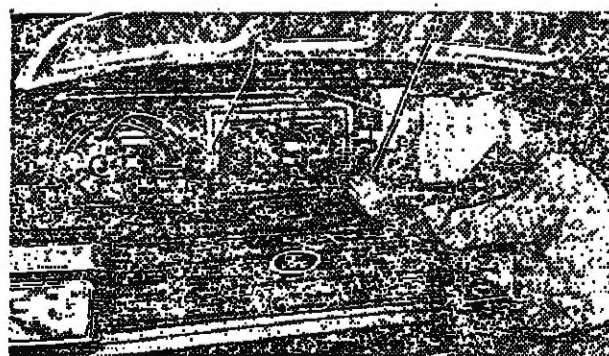
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Sir Roger: Questioned Soviet defector.

## Sir Roger given Canadian secrets

By Our Foreign Staff

The allegations against Sir Roger Hollis, brought swift, worldwide reaction. In Ottawa, it was disclosed on Tuesday that Sir Roger was given security "confidences" while on a visit to Canada as an MI5 intelligence officer.

Mr Robert Kaplan, who as Solicitor-General is the Cabinet Minister primarily responsible for Canada's internal security, said in Montreal that he would be briefed by his departmental officials on just what intelligence was given to Sir Roger.

"What is known is that he was treated to confidences of the security of Canada," Mr Kaplan said. He would not say whether Canadian authorities now suspect that that intelligence was passed to foreign agents.

In the Commons on Tuesday, Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister, said his recollection was that Mr Igor Gouzenko, who defected from the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa 35 years ago, told a Royal Commission about a mole inside MI5.

Sir Roger went to Canada to interview Mr Gouzenko in 1946, soon after Mr Gouzenko defected with documents revealing the existence of a large Soviet spy network in Canada.

Moscow Radio was quick to describe allegations that Sir Roger Hollis was a Soviet agent as a "concoction" aimed at stirring up anti-Soviet feeling and sowing discord in the arms drive and to expand the network of the intelligence services.

The broadcast was heard only on Moscow's overseas service and was put out surprisingly swiftly after publication in the *London Mail* of the charges against Sir Roger.

## Thatcher bid to calm the fears

By Fred Emery

The Prime Minister, in her statement to the Commons today on the allegations against Sir Roger Hollis, intends to try to reassure the nation about the present state of the secret service.

She expects to discuss the issue at this morning's Cabinet meeting, and then make what is described in Whitehall as a substantial attempt to deal with the wider matters reported in Mr Chapman Pincher's book *Theirs Trade is Treachery*.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher's statement is being prepared on the basis of a report by Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary of the Cabinet, but the Prime Minister is authoritatively expected to have seen several unnamed officials since her return from the EEC summit at Maastricht.

In those Whitehall quarters it is claimed that the timing of the Prime Minister's statement is related to the publication today of Mr Pincher's book, and that the serialisation in the *Daily Mail* alone is not being relied on.

There has, however, been no disposition in official quarters to measure the substance of the Prime Minister's statement. Concern not to vilify dead men unnecessarily is of secondary importance.

In attempting her reassurance Mrs Thatcher will be in a position to say how long she has known of the allegations and why she made no attempt to deal with them at the time of the Commons furor over Professor Anthony Blunt in November, 1979.

It was confirmed by the usual Whitehall sources that Mrs Thatcher received a letter from Mr Jonathan Aitken, Conservative MP for Thanet East, in January, last year, detailing the allegations. The sources would not say whether Mrs Thatcher had known of the matter before then. The implication of their hesitance is that she was not told.

Mr Aitken has called for an inquiry into those who recruited Sir Roger on the ground that there may even now be second-generation moles in the secret services. In Whitehall there is no confirmation that Mrs Thatcher will agree to any new inquiry.

She, as is usual, will be taking steps to inform former prime ministers and the Leader of the Opposition of the contents of her statement before she rises in the Commons shortly after 3.30pm.

The former prime ministers apparently involved in the investigations of Sir Roger included Mr Edward Heath and Sir Harold Wilson.

The Hollis affair: The 'Daily Mail' text

# Tom Driberg was a double agent, Chapman Pincher says

This is the third instalment of the *Daily Mail's* exclusive account of "The Hollis Affair". The Times is republishing this material by agreement with the *Daily Mail*.

Tom Driberg, or Baron Bradwell, was a man who was to become in 1975, perhaps one of the most extraordinary and certainly most colourful agents that MI5 have ever recruited.

His cover was never less than brilliant. Some may have suspected that he worked for the KGB (which he did as well) but no one ever guessed that the man who was to become Chairman of the Labour Party was on the payroll of the Security Services.

The man who always stood on the far Left of his party did so because MI5 had, while he was still a schoolboy, infiltrated him into the Communist Party. His life thereafter was but a brilliant lie.

It was while he was at Lancing College that his "agent runner", the late Maxwell Knight, well known for his BBC talks on natural history, instructed him to join the Brighton branch of the Communist Party.

He continued as a member of the party while at Christchurch, Oxford, and was still a member when he joined the *Daily Express* in 1928.

However, MI5's hopes of employing him as a long-term agent inside the Communist Party were soon to collapse.

In 1941, reports from an MI5 agent with the code name M8, crossed the desk of Anthony Blunt.

Blunt was asked by the Russians to try to establish the identity of M8 but failed to do so. Subsequently he was told by his Russian controller that Soviet intelligence had discovered M8 was Driberg.

With unusual clumsiness, the Russians alerted Harry Pollitt, the General Secretary of the Communist Party about the spy in his camp. Because of this tip he summarily expelled Driberg from the Party.

Nevertheless, though the Russians knew about Driberg, MI5 continued to use him and his value soared when he entered Parliament and was able to report on the activities of MPs on both sides of the House.

After the war, the KGB, knowing of his MI5 connection, tried to use Driberg to feed false information to mislead British intelligence. To this end they persuaded Harry Pollitt to induce him back into the Party as a clandestine member, something which Pollitt assured Driberg was already the position of several other MPs. Driberg reported the whole episode to MI5 and was told to keep the channels to Pollitt open.

After Driberg visited Moscow in 1966 to see Guy Burgess about the possibility of writing a book about him, he reported back to MI5 that the Russians had asked him to provide information to them about the internal proceedings of the Labour Party.

He was well placed to do so after having been elected to the National Executive in 1949 where he remained until his retirement from Parliament in 1974.

As Labour was not in office, MI5 had no commitment to it, so it was agreed that Driberg could report what he liked about his own Party to anyone since no official secrets were involved. In return he promised to use his connection with the KGB in MI5's interest whenever possible.

The Russians gave Driberg two identical brief-cases. When he handed one containing his reports to the Russians in London they handed him the other, containing his payment in banknotes.

## 'Reports went to Russia and MI5'

Under agreement with the security authorities, Driberg was supposed to give all the money, as well as copies of his reports, to MI5. Over a period of several years he handed in wads of notes amounting to many thousands of pounds, but there seems to be little doubt that he began to retain more and more of the money for himself.

Driberg reported at length on the private lives of his most senior ministerial colleagues including some close friends, and on other MPs, men and women of all parties, given to philandering, as well as on political activities.

This material went not only to the Russians, who could use it for recruiting purposes, but to MI5 as well.

To swell his information, he lent his flat to Parliamentary colleagues, including ministers, for lunch-time trysts. He invariably made subsequent searches in the hope of discovering the identities of ladies who had been taken there.

On one occasion, after lending the flat to a senior colleague, he found an envelope in the handwriting of a woman MP, which he recognized. He then had the effrontery to accuse the colleague concerned of risking damage to the Party by causing what could easily have become an open scandal.

Both MI5 and the KGB benefited from Driberg's activities. MI5 was able to extend its knowledge of crypto-Communists in the Labour Party machine as well as in Parliament. The Russians were able to extend their list of those with character weaknesses who might be susceptible to blackmail.



Lord Bradwell: Brilliant cover.

The Hollis affair: 2

## MI5's fat files on 60 Labour members

Mr Martin Fucini Jones, the ex-head of MI5, once said: "If the Russian Intelligence Service can recruit a backbench MP and he climbs to a Ministerial position, the spy is home and dry."

He did not make that remark without cause evidence to back it. MI5 and Special Branch acting on information provided by defectors and by surveillance of Soviet Bloc intelligence officers, have fat files on more than 60 Labour MPs and on a score or so of Labour Peers.

Such files indicate that while some are or have been helpful to the Soviet cause for money, sometimes coupled with threats of blackmail, the majority are ideological agents of influence, giving their assistance because they are secret members of the Communist Party.

An instructive example of suspected Soviet penetration of the House of Commons concerns a former Labour MP for Acton, Bernard Floud.

In 1967 Harold Wilson wanted to make Floud a junior Minister and it is standard practice that if a Prime Minister wishes to give office to an MP, MI5 is specifically asked if it has anything to his detriment. In this case there was plenty.

It was known that Floud had been recruited to the Soviet cause by Oxford by James Klugmann, a Communist best-known for his activities at the rival University of Cambridge.

Floud, in turn, had recruited

others including a woman who later managed to insinuate herself into a highly sensitive position in the Home Office. She had been interrogated and had passed Floud as her recruiter. He told that she was a serious suspicion against Floud involving Communism and possibly espionage, gave permission for Floud to be interviewed so that the security authorities could judge whether his activities had been no more than youthful follies.

Floud was interrogated closely for two weeks during which he denied any connection with the KGB. Then, on being shown evidence, he claimed that he could not recall it.

The MI5 men suspected he was still in touch with Soviet intelligence but told him that if he confessed his past activities and could convince them that he was no longer involved they would not object to his appointment.

Floud did not react to the offer, even after prolonged thought, so he was interviewed again. This produced nothing further and while MI5 could not give him clearance, they needed to persist with the questions and inquiries for a little longer.

After an unproductive session in October, 1967, Floud went home, wrapped himself in a blanket with a gas poker turned on the tap and killed himself.

From *Theirs Trade is Treachery*, published this week by Sidgwick and Jackson, £7.95.

provable breach of the Official Secrets Act. So Burgess was effectively frightened off.

It was an extraordinary episode from which nearly everyone gained. Driberg made money; both out of his publishers and out of the funds of KGB and MI5. The KGB was happy because it managed to put across its story and MI5 was contented because it used this device to ensure that Burgess himself was never able to return to Britain.

Burgess died aged 52 in 1963, lonely and homesick in Moscow, perhaps only guessing how just as he had betrayed his friends, so Driberg had betrayed him.

As with many double agents, Driberg was suspected by MI5 of doing more for the Soviet block than he admitted in his regular debriefings. Then in 1969 the Czech defector Josef Frolik, who told information against several Labour MPs, gave specific information about a senior Labour MP who was a homosexual, had been recruited by Czech intelligence and had the code-name "Crocodile".

Frolik described how the Czech intelligence man in London had been smartly censured by the KGB for approaching Driberg because "Crocodile" was already taken by a man, Frolik, who had seen "Crocodile" but did not know his name, identified him as Driberg from a spread of photographs shown to him by MI5.

Driberg was therefore taxed with this information by the MI5 case-officer handling him. "Have you ever done anything for the Czechs?" he was asked. "I have written them a few articles", he replied with a shrug.

Under questioning, however, he admitted that he had sold to the Czechs additional information about the internal squabbles of the Labour Party and personal scandals about who was sleeping with whom.

"All harmless stuff", Driberg insisted with his usual charm. He admitted that he had continued to do this while Chairman of the Labour Party in 1958 passing the information to his Czech controller whom he knew only as "Vaclav".

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## Conflicting reasons given for the eclipse of Herr Schmidt

From Patricia Clough

Bonn, March 25

What is the matter with Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor?

Herr Schmidt seems to be going through a political trough, which is difficult to define. The superb operator who normally meets and deftly tackles each problem as it comes seems strangely inactive.

The once confident leader, who would firmly state his policies, is unusually quiet. An impartial observer remarked: "It is as if he had lost his initiative, almost as if he were losing the leadership."

As the Chancellor retreats into the background, the limelight is being taken by Herr Hans Dietrich Genscher, Foreign Minister and Vice-Chancellor, with statements, interviews and important visits to Washington, Warsaw and—next week—Moscow.

It has become fashionable, though superficial, to remark that Herr Schmidt, not Herr Schmidt, seems to be running the country.

Has Herr Schmidt lost his touch, or is he deliberately just taking over for the time being? Those around him give conflicting reports. Some say he has retreated into himself, embittered at the lack of support from his own party, but others—

including his own staff—say he is relaxed and in good spirits, but disconcertingly inactive.

## Returning heroine tells why she said 'No'

By Hugh Noyes

Parliamentary Correspondent

Mrs Margaret Thatcher told the Commons yesterday that during the EEC heads of government meeting at Maastricht, Holland, on Monday and Tuesday she spent most of the time on fishing issues saying "I was doing so 'rather vehemently'."

It did not take much trading between the lines of her statement to realize that Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, must have been heavily sick of the slight doubt that there will be deep trouble for the Government if there should be any backtracking.

Fishery interests in the Commons spread far and wide, crossing all party barriers and Mr Peter Walker, who will carry on the battle in Brussels on Friday with his fellow agricultural ministers, in no doubt that there will be deep trouble for the Government if there should be any backtracking.

It was not until the Commons menu for the Prime Minister.

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There appears to be no evidence to support suggestions that he is suffering from depression, but among his Free Democrat coalition partners there is the feeling that as a politician who is particularly thrives on success, he is suffering from the setbacks of recent months.

Herr Kurt Becker, the Chancellor's spokesman and confident, angrily denies that Herr Schmidt is either inactive or withdrawn. "That is quite wrong", he says.

Whether real or merely perceived, the change in the Chancellor's style appears to have much to do with the increasing criticism and opposition from within his own Social Democrat Party.

Opposition from both the right and left wings of the Social Democrats look like preventing him making a highly advantageous sale of tanks and other weapons to Saudi Arabia, and will almost certainly compel him to scrap a deal to sell two submarines to Chile.

While the Chancellor appears prepared to give way, there is increasing resistance on subjects on which he would rather resign than budge. Two junior Cabinet ministers recently supported the party's support of the NATO missiles policy and Social Democrats in northern

Germany are increasingly coming out against his nuclear energy policy.

A five-point document approved last month by the party executive, has largely failed to restore party unity and strains between its leader and its members are evident.

Sources in the party believe Herr Schmidt is biding his time in the hope that these internal problems will blow over.

Diplomatic observers, however, suggest that the Chancellor is aware that he is probably in his last term of office and that he will be unable to fulfil long-term aims. His particular personal bitterness towards Mrs Margaret Thatcher, they believe, is not so much to the fish dispute as to the feeling that by being so difficult, she is thwarting his hopes of a closely knit and well-functioning European Community.

The Free Democrats are deeply worried about the stability of their bigger coalition partners and the lack of firm hand. Herr Genscher, is implied, has had to fill vacuum.

Once troublesome partners, the Free Democrats are now doing everything they can to encourage harmony among the Social Democrats.

"But", said one, "this process of erosion cannot go on forever. Something will have to happen soon or everything will fall to pieces."

The police found large quantities of Nazi propaganda material and a substantial find—in the house of a police chief.

Herr Ernst-Albrecht Lohr, head of the criminal investigation department at Recklinghausen, in the Ruhr, was suspended from his duties today.

The Dortmund public prosecutor in charge of investigations said: "I was horrified when I heard about his open dealings with a known suspect of spreading propaganda a racial incitement."

Police sources said that He Lohrmüller is the father of Bundeswehr reserve officer who was wearing military uniforms at the funeral of Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz, last head of the Nazi Reich.

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## Police chief had Nazi propaganda material

Germany are increasingly coming out against his nuclear energy policy.

A five-point document approved last month by the party executive, has largely failed to restore party unity and strains between its leader and its members are evident.

Sources in the party believe Herr Schmidt is biding his time in the hope that these internal problems will blow over.

Diplomatic observers, however, suggest that the Chancellor is aware that he is probably in his last term of office and that he will be unable to fulfil long-term aims. His particular personal bitterness towards Mrs Margaret Thatcher, they believe, is not so much to the fish dispute as to the feeling that by being so difficult, she is thwarting his hopes of a closely knit and well-functioning European Community.

The Free Democrats are deeply worried about the stability of their bigger coalition partners and the lack of firm hand. Herr Genscher, is implied, has had to fill vacuum.

Once troublesome partners, the Free Democrats are now doing everything they can to encourage harmony among the Social Democrats.

"But", said one, "this process of erosion cannot go on forever. Something will have to happen soon or everything will fall to pieces."

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# President clips Mr Haig's wings

From Patrick Brangan  
Washington, March 25  
Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, has lost his first public skirmish with the White House. He declared yesterday that he disapproved of a proposal that Vice-President Bush should be put in charge of crisis management, and said that he was not satisfied with the present system of making decisions on foreign policy. In the evening, the President announced that Mr Bush would get job, not Mr Haig.

It amounted to a public rebuke for the Secretary of State. Mr Reagan tried to take some of the sting away this afternoon by telling reporters that "the Secretary of State is my primary adviser on foreign affairs, and in that capacity he

is the chief formulator and spokesman for foreign policy for this Administration." The fact remains that Mr Haig has suffered a serious reverse and that his standing in the Government, and therefore abroad, has suffered.

Some of Mr Reagan's most senior assistants in the White House thought that Mr Haig had been taking on altogether too much responsibility. He has repeatedly claimed that he is in charge of foreign policy, under the President's direction, that he is the "vicar" for foreign affairs.

He clearly wanted to avoid being subverted by Mr Richard Allen, the President's National Security Adviser, in the way Mr Vance, then secretary of State, had his authority undermined by Mr Zbigniew

Brezinski, President Carter's adviser, and the way Mr William Rogers, Mr Nixon's first Secretary of State, was destroyed by Dr Henry Kissinger.

Mr Haig submitted proposals for the organization of foreign policy on almost the first day of Mr Reagan's Administration. The White House staff, including Mr Allen and Mr Edwin Meese, the co-ordinator, succeeded in stopping this pre-emptive strike, and now the Secretary of State has been publicly rebuffed for questioning the President's authority. The State Department said last night that he had no intention of resigning.

Mr Bush was made chairman of the emergency committee precisely to avoid a sharp con-

flict between Mr Haig and Mr Allen. If Mr Allen had been put in charge, as his predecessors were, Mr Haig would have resented it. The Vice-President, who was once director of the Central Intelligence Agency and headed the American missions to the United Nations and to China, seemed a well-qualified compromise.

The Secretary of State was not enthusiastic, and made the mistake of letting his lack of enthusiasm be widely known. Some observers see his dispute with Mr Bush as the first round in the race for the Republican nomination in 1984, if Mr Reagan does not run again.

Mr Haig's defeat is partly a victory for Mr Allen, but is more of a victory for senior and very conservative members of Mr Reagan's staff.

## Appeal to Mr Reagan not to arm Unita

From David Cross  
Washington, March 25  
Senator Andre Goncalves Pereira, the Portuguese Foreign Minister, today became the latest in a line of allied government leaders to come to Washington to exchange views on international problems with the new Administration.

During talks with Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, Senator Goncalves Pereira was expected to urge the Administration not to assist Dr Jonas Savimbi, the leader of Unita, the last surviving anti-communist guerrilla movement in Angola.

President Reagan and his foreign and defence policy advisers have already made it clear that they would like to help Unita in its continuing struggle against the Government in Luanda supported by the Soviet Union and Cuba. They are taking steps to ask Congress to repeal an American law forbidding aid to rebels in Angola and Dr Savimbi is expected to be allowed to visit Washington shortly to canvass aid for his cause.

Portugal, however, is trying to improve relations with its former African colonies such as Angola and Mozambique by offering economic aid to the governments in power irrespective of their political colour.

The Administration has already upset a number of black African governments in recent weeks by its tilt towards South Africa. The 50-member African group at the United Nations issued a statement last night saying that it would "not accept the development of the policy by the present American Administration in favour of the racist regime of South Africa."

The statement said: "Such a trend can only encourage state terrorism practised by South Africa, racist opposition and repression of the black people in South Africa, perpetuate the continued illegal occupation of Namibia and generally harm United States-African relations for which the Government will be solely responsible."

This angry reaction by black African governments comes after remarks by President Reagan suggesting that he might favour closer relations with Pretoria, as well as a highly publicized and embarrassing incident involving Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, the American representative at the United Nations and a five-man delegation of senior South African military intelligence officials.

The State Department first denied that members of the South African delegation had met any senior American administration officials. Official contacts between military officials of the two countries have been forbidden on American soil since 1963.

Later, however, the State Department acknowledged that the delegation had met Mrs Kirkpatrick.

American and Portuguese Foreign Ministers were also expected to begin consultations for the renewal of the American lease on the use of the Lajes air base in the Azores, which is due to expire in 1983.

Senator Goncalves Pereira was also expected to hear from Mr Haig about Washington's view of East-West relations in all its aspects, from El Salvador to Poland.

Herr Hans Apel, the West German Defence Minister, was also in Washington today, the conclusion of talks with Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Secretary of Defence. Herr Apel was under pressure to reassure the new Administration that plans being worked out in Bonn to cut government expenditure would not hamper allied defence programmes.

During talks at the Pentagon yesterday, Mr Masayoshi Ito, the Japanese Foreign Minister, said that Japan was determined "to fulfil its responsibilities for world peace." Never the less, a spokesman made it clear last night that Japan would set its own level of military forces and would not take part in collective Western defence efforts.

## Uganda gunmen attack Obote HQ and bomb Kampala power supply

From Charles Harrison  
Nairobi, March 25  
Kampala and the whole of western Uganda were plunged into darkness when anti-government groups damaged the main electricity supply line from the Owen Falls hydroelectric station at the source of the Nile last night.

In other attacks around Kampala the broadcasting station on Bugolobi Hill was damaged, and armed men sprayed the ruling Uganda People's Congress headquarters with machine-gun bullets, wounding two party workers.

Four heavy explosions were heard by Kampala residents, and telephone services were interrupted for several hours.

The Uganda Freedom Movement claimed responsibility for today's attacks. A spokesman for the underground group, telephoning from Uganda, said they had planned to make the attacks earlier this week, but

had delayed them because President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone had been visiting Uganda.

The movement claimed responsibility last month for a series of attacks on police stations in Kampala. Its leaders have not been identified but it is thought to support Dr Yusufu Lule, who was President of Uganda for 68 days in 1979 immediately after the overthrow of President Amin.

One of the underground groups led by Mr Yoweri Museveni, a former minister, has recently claimed to have carried out attacks on military targets. A statement received yesterday, Mr Museveni said his People's Resistance Army was sure of success because it is backed by the public.

He accused President Obote and his ministers of committing murders and other crimes committed by the Ugandan Army, and threatened to carry the attack to the political

leaders who must bear responsibility.

The explosions in the Kampala area occurred shortly before midnight. The main damage to the electricity supply was caused about 10 miles east of Kampala, diplomats said today.

At Bugolobi Hill, 10 men in two Land Rovers attacked the radio station, killing three members of the army guard there.

The road outside the radio station was stained with blood and scattered with broken glass today.

The attack on Uganda House, the Congress headquarters in central Kampala, took place soon after 9 am. After spraying upper storeys with machine-gun bullets, three armed men in a Land Rover drove off at high speed, pursued through central Kampala by troops.

The attackers' driver was hit by a bullet, but the vehicle apparently got away. Seven people were arrested later.

## Civil servants sharply criticized French urged to adopt active strategy on poor

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, March 25  
A year last February President Giscard d'Estaing met Father Joseph Wresinski, a Franciscan friar, who has devoted his whole life to helping the underprivileged in France.

Father Wresinski founded the movement, Aid To All Distress—Fourth World, to help more than a million French people who eke out a miserable existence outside the bounds of society.

His concern at the Elysee visit was especially to draw the attention of the President, who had on many occasions in the past given support to the movement, to the fact that all the elaborate policies of social assistance and redistribution had often failed to benefit those who needed help most. Because such people were caught up in a world of illiteracy, hopelessness and want, they found it impossible to break away.

The upshot of that visit was the setting up of a working party, chaired by M Gabriel Oheix, who is a member of the Conseil d'Etat and former government delegate for employment, to draw up a report on the problem, which has just been given to the Government.

The report does not contain any analysis or statistics of poverty in France, but lists seven priorities and 60 different proposals, some of which break distinctly new ground. One of them proposes the setting up of a fund, financed by a "solidarity contribution" and paid by wage earners who enjoy stable employment, like civil servants. It is also suggested that gambling be taxed as well as outward signs of wealth, some of which, according to the report, are regarded as a challenge, if not a provocation "by the poorest."

In spite of all the outward signs of the affluent society, there is still a great deal of

dire poverty in France. Charitable organizations like the Secours Catholique, the Secours Populaire Français, the Salvation Army and the Paris Prières des Pauvres report a dramatic increase in requests for assistance since 1978.

The increase in unemployment and the rigidity of French bureaucracy are partly responsible. "The French social system is perfect," M Oheix has recently quoted as saying, "if you satisfy the whims of the average government official."

Many cases of acute need recorded by these charitable organizations are because of the failure to obtain due benefits.

As Le Monde writes, the Oheix report is a sharp indictment of the French administration by this working party of senior civil servants, who accuse it of "secreting poverty."

The report begins significantly with a quotation from Ernest Renan to the effect that "there is no greater injustice than to handle equally things which are unequal."

The bureaucratic machine "handles matters blindly and bears a heavy responsibility in the aggravation of the situation of individuals as a result of the suspension or cessation of the payment of benefits for simple administrative reasons."

The report suggests among other things that social security officials "should adopt towards the least privileged an active strategy like that of firms towards markets they have decided to conquer." It recommends a fundamental change in administrative attitudes by allowing for the payment of benefits prior to the production of proofs of entitlement.

It also suggests the creation of a "social income" which would be paid to those who do not have access to the different kinds of social benefits, and it emphasizes the need for an all-out campaign against illiteracy.

## Holes found in Fresnes jail security

From Ian Murray  
Paris, March 25  
M Emile Bance, governor of Fresnes prison in the Val de Marne, has been "invited" to early retirement after an attempt was made by a condemned murderer to escape.

M Bance, who cannot refuse the suggestion, is leaving with a bad grace, claiming that he is being made the scapegoat for failures higher up in the prison administration.

The escape attempt was made on February 24 by M Philippe Maurice, who is due to be executed for the murder of a policeman if he is not granted a presidential pardon. Making use of a gun which, it is alleged, was hidden in the prison by one of his defence lawyers, he shot one warder before being cornered and disarmed. A subsequent inquiry disclosed several shortcomings.

The defence lawyer, Maître Brigitte Lemerle, who is being held in custody, has told the police that she merely agreed to take in a wrapped package to the prisoner as a gift. Ironically, the only part of the huge prison not equipped with a metal detector at the door is the high-security wing, so when the lawyer entered the gun was not detected.

The next mistake occurred while the prisoner was talking to his lawyer in an interview room. Although the law says that these conversations must be private, a warder is allowed to watch what goes on between the two through a glass screen. Nevertheless, the "leakage" was handed over unnoticed.

Only a perfunctory body check was made of the prisoner before he was sent back to his cell, so the revolver hidden in his pullover went undiscovered.

Finally, the time taken to corner and disarm the prisoner has been found by the inquiry to have been too long, due to the fact that a proper warning was not given quickly enough.

As a result of these "technical failings", three warders in the high-security wing are being moved and are losing their seniority and M Bance, after 20 years as a senior prison officer, is being pressured to take early retirement.

Commenting on the decision, M Christian Dabiane, director of the prison service, said: "The functions of authority are not in keeping with irresponsibility. When mistakes go so far as non-execution of orders, it is intolerable."

## China disaster appeal

From Alan McGregor  
Geneva, March 25  
"A creeping disaster" was the description given by the United Nations Disaster Relief Office (Undro) to the effects of drought and flood in China when it issued an official appeal yesterday for relief assistance.

"It is not a dramatic situation", an official said. "Initial contacts last December revealed the Chinese Government's desire, in applying its new open door policy, to avail itself of whatever assistance

was available through the United Nations.

Mr Wan Zhichuan, a senior official from the Chinese Ministry of Economic Relations with Foreign Countries, is returning to Peking later this week after 10 days of discussions here with Undro, other United Nations bodies, including the World Health Organisation, the World Food Programme, and Western diplomats.

Undro expects that Mr Zhichuan's visit may be followed soon by that of a higher delegation

## Road chaos in Rome

Rome, March 25.—Buses, trams and the underground will come to a halt in Rome tomorrow as transport workers stage a 24-hour, nationwide strike. Traffic congestion in the capital is expected to be worse than usual and several thousand strikers plan to march through the city centre.

## Salisbury fears punitive Pretoria trade bars

From Stephen Taylor  
Salisbury, March 25  
The announcement yesterday by South Africa that it is scrapping the preferential trade agreement with Zimbabwe was unexpected here and is regarded as a political move which will damage Zimbabwe's economy.

South Africa is by far Zimbabwe's most important trading partner, being a convenient and lucrative export market and the source of the bulk of imports apart from petrol products. Last year about 140m Zimbabwe dollars (about £97m)

of the country's export earnings came from South Africa, 24 per cent of the total amount excluding gold revenue.

With the termination of the agreement, which was drawn up in 1964, South Africa will put heavy tariffs on Zimbabwean goods, it is believed in economic circles here. In some areas, for example foodstuffs, there is a ready market elsewhere in Africa but Zimbabwean-produced clothing, textiles, furniture and electrical goods, which are significant foreign currency earners, will be badly hit.

Imports pose less of a prob-

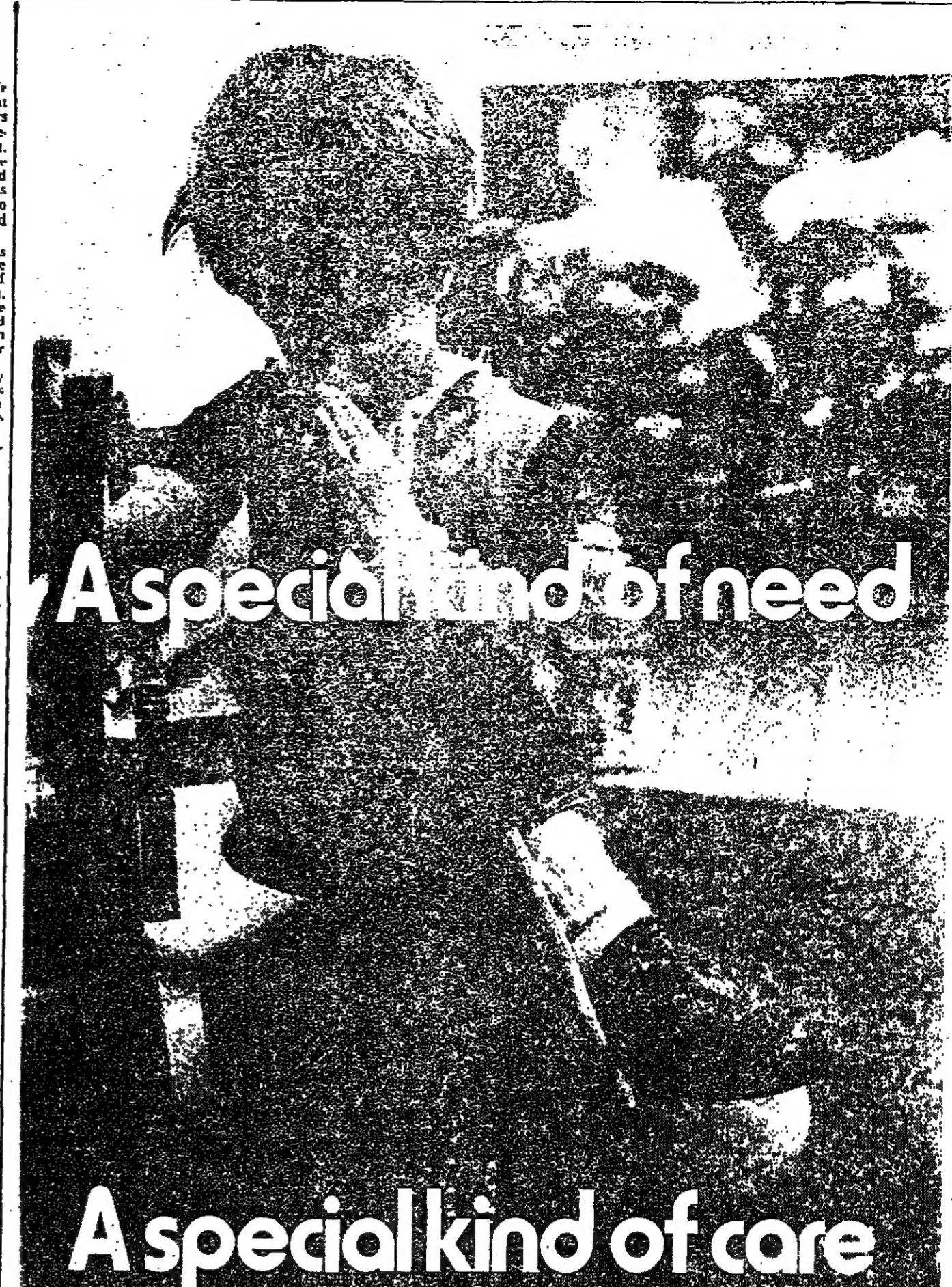
lem. Zimbabwe has been casting about for new trading partners since independence and has found that some motor vehicles and a wide range of machinery are more cheaply obtainable elsewhere.

A Zimbabwean delegation, which had been expecting a routine discussion on the agreement, was told by the South Africans yesterday that it had been scrapped.

An economist said: "It was completely unexpected and was obviously politically motivated. The agreement has been mainly to South Africa's benefit over the years."

Meanwhile, the Zimbabwe conference on reconstruction and development went into its third day in a mood of near euphoria.

Yesterday, 21 countries—including the donor heavyweights—announced their contributions. Today representatives of 18 countries took the podium to pledge \$6m Zimbabwe dollars. This, said the spokesman, increased the money available to the Government from the time it launches its three-year economic plan in July to 890m Zimbabwe dollars, of which 813m was specifically for reconstruction and development projects.



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**Job Release Scheme**

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Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader (third from left), discussing plans for a four-hour strike to be held in Bydgoszcz, northern Poland, on Friday.

## Polish talks go into second day

Warsaw, March 25.—Solidarity, the free trade union federation, today obtained an adjournment of negotiations with the Polish Government, accusing it of being totally unresponsive. The Communist Party's Politburo promptly called a meeting of the party's Central Committee for Sunday, the official P.A.P. news agency reported, to examine the party's

## tasks in face of the present situation.

Talks which opened here this evening, were broken off after hardly half an hour's conversation. The Government had "no proposals to offer" to an extremely detailed list of union demands, one Solidarity delegate commented later. The dialogue is to resume tomorrow, although no hour has yet been set. If so, it will be only a day before a scheduled four-hour national strike in protest at incidents in the northern city of Bydgoszcz last week, in which 20 members of Solidarity were apparently injured by the police. The union is seeking govern-

## ment guarantees against any more such incidents, while the Government wishes to deter any more strikes.

A deputy to Mr Lech Walesa, Solidarity's leader, said today that all that Mr Rakowski, a Deputy Prime Minister, had had to offer today were words. They would have made "a good article in Politika," he said bitterly, referring to the fact that Mr Rakowski doubts the managing editor of the Communist weekly of that name. Mr Walesa said that in spite of the bad start, he was still optimistic about chances for an agreement that would avert an indefinite general strike from next Tuesday. However, other

## unionists pointed out that some sort of "signal" from the Government was needed first.

Mr Walesa told reporters that the talks ended swiftly because Mr Lech Walesa, the Justice Minister, had failed to present a reply to the union's demands. The Warsaw talks were held against a background of mounting tension in Poland. State radio said there was only enough food to last for another 12 days, and national television broadcast a statement by Pope John Paul II in which he expressed his deep concern about the state of his homeland. Demands for the punishment of those responsible for alleged

## police brutality at Bydgoszcz are among a list of stiff conditions Solidarity has laid down for negotiations.

A state radio commentator said: "Talks conducted under strike pressure cannot lead to an honest harmonization of views, but they do paralyse the authorities."—Agence France Presse and Reuters. War games go on: The East German official ADN news agency said today the Warsaw Pact members in and around Poland demonstrated the all-enemy's readiness to defeat "a enemies of socialism" and made clear the war game would go on for several more days.—Reuters.

## Army's role in countering ETA accepted by Basque leader

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, March 25

Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Spanish Prime Minister, obtained the cautious support of Señor Carlos Garaikoeche, the Chief Minister of the Basque autonomous regional Government, for a limited involvement of the armed forces in countering terrorism in the Basque country, when the two men met in Madrid today. But Señor Garaikoeche clearly indicated that the Basque Nationalist Party government was against declaring a state of emergency. He also indicated that the authority of the regional government must be upheld. Señor Calvo Sotelo, engaged in selling Monday's package of tougher anti-terrorist measures to the Basque leader, also sought greater cooperation in matters of information to fight the ETA terrorists.

Señor Garaikoeche insisted that the best antidote to the ETA remained the introduction of an autonomous regime in the Basque country "without any breaking up of the unity of Spain". He claimed that the Prime Minister had assured him that transfer of powers by Madrid to the Basques would not be slowed down.

The Basque leader later met Señor Alberto Oliart, the Defence Minister, to be briefed on the extent of the armed forces' surveillance operations along the French border. Señor Oliart later told foreign correspondents that the basic purpose of using some army units was to make the frontier "more impenetrable". The Army would not be employed in the interior but only a few miles from the border.

## This would free the police and Civil Guard for a more effective fight against ETA terrorists.

But the Army is not going to fight the terrorists directly, the minister pledged. Asked what would happen if army units were attacked by ETA guerrillas, he said that troops would use their arms only as a last resort if attacked and then promptly hand over those detained to the Civil Guard. Señor Oliart rejected the idea of promoting to senior posts in the armed forces officers of known democratic sympathies. That was not the way for democracy to be strengthened, he said. Officers should be promoted strictly according to professional qualifications. Asked about the possibility of another coup attempt by the military, Señor Oliart replied: "That will only occur over my dead body."

Military intelligence would have to be "restructured" as a result of last month's failed coup, he added. One company of the Army's Special Operations Group was sent from the Burgos command today to start surveillance of the frontier. The Civil Guard also tightened controls at frontier posts with France and the first of seven naval vessels to be redeployed arrived in Pasajes port, near San Sebastian, to patrol the Bay of Biscay.

Before the meeting, Señor Garaikoeche expressed a "very lively concern" that the limited talks given to the armed forces in the frontier zone "could signify the beginning of a growing



## Ethnic TV helps to break down national barriers

### Australians tune in worldwide

From Douglas Aiton  
Melbourne, March 25

Since its inception in 1956, Australian television has often been thought of as the worst in the world, but now it appears that things are changing.

Ethnic television was introduced in Melbourne and Sydney last year and it is already winning strong praise from hitherto sceptical viewers and critics.

Nearly half of Australians, aged under 20 have parents who were born outside the country. Immediately after the war, "New Australians", although encouraged to come here to settle, were very much in the minority and were treated as second class citizens.

Now, such are the numbers of immigrant Australians, they are a strong force in Australian society and evidence of this is being felt in many areas.

Most immigrants have a European background, usually Italian or Greek, but there are many from South America and South-East Asia.

Ethnic television has been one result of the increased influence of the immigrants and all Australians are beginning

to feel its benefits, although only about 3 per cent of viewers choose to watch it. Its audience, however, is regularly increasing.

Ethnic television was once considered an election stunt by the Fraser Government, as it is almost entirely financed from government funds.

But five months after it started going on air in Melbourne and Sydney, it is no longer called "hasty, extravagant, ill-considered and an election stunt" as it was variously described during last year's election campaign.

Ethnic television has been carefully developed by Mr Bruce Gynsels, an experienced broadcaster, into an alternative not only to the largely frothy offerings from the other commercial networks, but also to ABC, the Australian equivalent of the BBC, which has a tendency to be dull.

The result has been some superlative viewing, particularly of films and documentaries from parts of the world seldom given a showing in Australia, such as South America, Israel and Western Europe. Some of the most widely

acclaimed programmes have come from Eastern Europe.

The news service has also impressed by giving an international coverage. The biggest problem has been the necessity for subtitled. There are 12 full-time and 40 part-time people working on subtitles alone. It is an extremely complex literary and technical process taking 30 hours for each one hour of foreign film.

Early indications are not only that all this effort is worth while, but that Channel O, the ethnic channel, will perhaps alter the entire pattern of television viewing.

Apart from offering a genuine alternative, Channel O is also helping to break down national barriers while broadening people's perceptions of the world. An added bonus is that the channel is proving to be extremely popular with deaf people.

Ethnic television is not only attempting to provide television of exceptional quality, but it is also enabling Australians to know a world that extends beyond Britain and the United States.

## Concern in Delhi over US arms for Pakistan

From Kuldip Nayar  
Delhi, March 25

India has expressed to the United States its "grave concern" over the supply of a "large quantity of arms" to Pakistan and over the militarization of the Gulf region.

The Indian Foreign Ministry also summoned early this week the British High Commissioner and the West German Ambassador in Delhi to express its unhappiness over the West's arms supplies to Pakistan.

Mr Narasimha Rao, the Foreign Minister, told Parliament today that he had personally conveyed his concern to the United States Embassy in Delhi.

Mr Rao said that India always wanted Pakistan to be stable, which meant that it should have enough arms to defend itself, but the quantity of arms being acquired by Pakistan seemed to be disproportionate to its actual requirements.

He, however, rejected an MP's demand for a regional summit to discuss mutual matters, saying that this was likely to prove counterproductive. But he told the House that India had agreed to take part in a preliminary meeting of foreign ministers of the region to be held soon.

Denying that India was shying away from making a strong protest to the United States against the arming of Pakistan, Mr Rao said: "Our concern should be judged from the fact that we have supplies in the past had usually resulted in a setback to normalization within the subcontinent. All these years, we have been assuring Pakistan that India poses no threat to its security. We have also advised it against an arms build-up since that creates unnecessary tension."

Mr Rao again said that Pakistan had rejected India's offer of a non-aggression pact, saying that normalization could be attained through the Simla agreement signed between India and Pakistan after the Bangladesh war in 1972.

India could not be equated with Pakistan in the matter of acquisition of arms, he went on. The fact was that with the stated purpose of deterring "Soviet adventurism" and protecting vital Western interests in the Gulf region, the United States was likely to supply Pakistan a variety of advanced weapons including aircraft, tanks, anti-tank missiles and air defence systems.

United States spokesmen had referred to the possibility of supplying arms to Afghan rebels, though Pakistan had said it would not allow its territory to be used for this purpose. "While noting this statement," Mr Rao said, "we would like to make it clear that an active participation in building up a 'security consensus' in terms of great-power rivalries would be inconsistent with the professions that Pakistan had made while joining the non-aligned movement in Havana."

Nuclear explosion: Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, said today that if the need was felt for setting off another nuclear explosion for peaceful purposes "we shall go ahead with it."

Mrs Gandhi was replying in Parliament to a question why India had not carried out further such explosions as that in Rajasthan in 1974.

Dr Raja Ramanna, the director of India's Atomic Research Centre, told foreign correspondents on February 3 that India had no plans to set off another nuclear explosion.

## Prudence Glynn

### Trust William to strike a cord with teenage girls

Buying books for teenage girls is almost as difficult as buying clothes for them: almost because nothing can compare with the horrors of wasting time and money, the lack of purpose and clear direction and the cultural shocks sustained in the course of venting what certain stores deem suitable for young women when they are not wearing jeans and yet another sweat shirt.

Buying books can never be a waste of time, and the ones worth reading can all be found under one roof if that roof covers an efficient shop, so feel safe rather than from standing instead of tripping — a less vicious sort of ache. On the other hand, the choice is no less baffling once you leave the literary equivalent of the jeans and sweat shirt (Black Beauty, Emma) and launch yourself into a special occasion number. As the special number droops unworn in the wardrobe, a living reproach to your bad budgeting, inane social aspirations and, above all, your shape, so on the shelf rest dustily all sorts of well-intentioned and seasonally timed gifts of the written word. They have not been opened, let alone read in the bath.

There seem to be two problems to overcome. The first is the very natural, humane and delightful desire to pass on to another the knowledge of something, written, spoken, made, which has brought pleasure into your own life. But remember those smashing school years, written and read in perfect innocence, which cause the generation-gapped listeners to fall about with laughter and say that being in love with the books mistress is not necessarily a bad thing. Games on hobbies and recreations are another snare. I have had to find out the hard way that the genre of Enormous Lark and Other Stories lacks a certain edge now that the young people, who once nabbed your pony would now be after your Metro.

The other problem in choosing books for girls is encountered by those parents and assorted literature-givers who feel that, to prove themselves ageless, they have to know by insight what the young read. That is a great mistake. Intelligent young people look to adults for different opinions, a wider choice, and not competition on whose mental

equivalent of disco pants are the tighter. You can glean ideas of what they want to know particularly as the vision of O levels — a very precise discipline — show in the whites of their eyes. They ask if you have read *To Kill a Mockingbird* (yes, but all hopeless old romantics like me only remember Gregory Peck in the film) or *Journeys End*.

This is the moment which calls for stern comment. Forget *Gone with the Wind* when prepping up on history and read *Forever Amber*, just as well written, better researched, less nostalgic and biased. Not such a good film, though.

Thus it was with a certain sense of delight that I received an unexpected book, *Goodnight Mister Tom*, intended for teenagers. Mind you, nobody concerned with its presentation had said so, and the jacket hovered somewhere between *Just William Strikes Back* and *Lark Rise to Candleford*. So I gave it to a teenage girl for comment.

I have said that my receipt of the book was qualified, both by immediate reaction to its looks (Ugh!) and to its story line. Nor was I impressed by the name of the author and the fact that she was an actress, Michelle Magorian. A fancy, hey name, no good on the stage or how did she have time to write? Nor did my impressions improve when I went to interview the (yes, testing) author, because her stage name is Mikki Magorian. Fake unisex names alarm me far more than dear old romantics like Barbara Cartland (Barbara Villiers, Lady Castlemaine, Duchess of Cleveland, mistresses of Charles II).

Names are a great precursor of reputations; unfortunately they cause the cynical to form immutable preconceptions about how they will look and be.

So I expected to find Michelle Magorian tiny, elf-like, failed as an actress, Irish and aiming her book like an elephant gun at anyone who came within peeping range.

Well, she is tiny, far from elf-like (one of her recent parts was a teenage interpretation of Humpty Dumpty, and she is, to be frank, very small and round, and what is more her eyes are circular and so is her face). But she seems to me to be buoyant in her profession. She is undeniably Irish/Welsh and she knew precisely for whom she was writing this, her first full length work.

Since she sees herself as an actress as an

interpreter between the author of the script and the audience, it is not surprising that her book puts her in much the same role. She often plays parts much younger than her real years — *Goodnight Mister Tom* is for and about much younger people — and she insists that it is imaginative, rather than autobiographical.

She lived a comfortable if peripatetic life as the oldest (she is 33) of four children born in a "very respectable, tea-on-the-table" mother and a naval father from the Irish labouring class and was educated in a convent.

William, the little boy in her story, brought up in a nasty home in the East End of London and is evacuated to "Candleford" to the care of an elderly single male. The terrified boy and creaky pensioner discover each other's loneliness while daffodils and lambs, heal the urban sores. The decrepit Bible-thumping mother (Miss Magorian is a lapsed Catholic) summons the boy home and nearly kills him.

There are the added horrors of a new-born illegitimate baby hidden in a drawer and given to the brutalized little boy to nurse. The baby dies, authority is cruel to be kind. After the arrival of the elderly man plus faithful dog, the child returns to the arms of nature, healing wounds and the great soft overwhelming wings of love. The end is ambivalent, as all good ends should be — you make of it what you will.

The message is clear: love and courage and good can still win. Miss Magorian insists that her adult characters are not just black and white, but are, as we all are, mixtures, which modern children accept.

The teenager who read it for me thought it was a marvellous book, exciting and real — "Of course she put tape over the baby's mouth to stop it crying" — totally comprehensible, not patronising. She loved the country allusions, which are now strong in herself.

I was saddened that 40 years on the lessons to society of the maltreatment of children seem to have made so little progress, and hope that the lesson of love and individual care above state welfare will strike a chord in the next generation. Perhaps they will.

Kestrel Books, £5.50

## Tory MPs may defy whips over Canada

By George Clarke  
Political Correspondent

British MPs reacted strongly yesterday to the prospect that the Government will impose a three-line whip to ensure the speedy passage of the Bill, expected next month, to endorse the patriation of the Canadian constitution, together with an amending formula and a charter of rights.

Such action was clearly envisaged by Mr Jean Chrétien, the Canadian Justice Minister, who addressed the Canada Club in London last night.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, he said, had repeated many times that when the patriation is made by Ottawa, the British Government "will act promptly according to precedent and the law". This, he said, was the type of statement of intention which the Canadian Government welcomed, and which accorded with tradition and convention.

The Tory whips have not yet given instructions, but it is assumed that the Bill will be sponsored as a Government-backed measure, which will entail mustering Conservative MPs in force to get it through.

But many Conservatives say they may defy the whips because, although Mr Chrétien likes of "tradition and convention", it is quite unprecedented that such a Bill should be forward with eight of the 10 Canadian provincial governments opposed to it.

Here the argument turns on whether Westminster has a guardianship or trusteeship in relation to preserving a federal structure of Canada.

A Commons select committee, a report published in January, argued that Westminster had a role to ensure that a request from Ottawa "conforms to the clearly expressed wishes of Canada as a whole". Mr Eldon Griffiths, Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds and a member of the select committee, said last night: "To have a three-line whip would be using the Government's power to impose its will on a body which would surely be a disgrace to the party. Many of my colleagues will support the view that the Foreign Office whips were pale and unconvincing."

Sir Bernard Braine (Essex, sub-East, C) said: "Since 11 Parliament has never been asked to take sides in a serious institutional dispute raging in Canada." British MPs had been asked to maintain a balance between the federal and provincial governments in Canada, would be wrong to impose their will, he said.

Sir Peter Mills (West Devon, said: "We have a guardianship role which we should uphold by Canada in 1931, therefore must take notice of the vinctual (Canadian) objections."

He Labour whips said that the Government tried to get the Bill through without proper union, there would be trouble. The Liberals say "will support a 'properly' request."

The Lords, whips on both sides say there could be serious opposition to the Trudeau package with the possibility of introducing petitions on behalf of dissenting provinces.

Mr Chrétien last night denied the "outrageous" proposals to fundamentally change or to the federal system of government in Canada: "That a deserves to be laid to rest and for all."

Let us state bluntly and clearly that the only change to the balance of the federal system is to increase the powers of the provinces — that is shift the balance in their favour."

He said that the proposals had been thoroughly debated in the House, all MPs who wished to put their views. So should be no doubts in mind that the package would be thoroughly debated by people of Canada and representatives in the House.

Now has the support of the House of Commons from the province in Canada and supported by two political parties who together received two-thirds of the votes at the last general election, he said.



Wartime charges: Herr Arpad Wigand, a former SS officer accused of ordering the deaths of Jews in Warsaw during the Second World War, on his way to court in Hamburg where he faces trial with two wartime colleagues, Herr Wigand, aged 75, a first lieutenant in the SS, who served as a Warsaw police magistrate, is accused of having one man shot who refused to give up some furs and ordering the deaths of 50 people who were unable to work in concentration camps. He is also accused of the deaths of about 90 people who were being sent to the Treblinka concentration camp.

## Britain has 'no choice' on constitutional request

From John Best  
Ottawa, March 25

The Government has stated that Anglo-Canadian relations will be severely strained if Westminster refuses to comply with a request from Ottawa to patriate the Canadian constitution.

In a report made public last night by Mr Jean Chrétien, the Justice Minister, the Government said Britain had no choice but to accede to such a request.

The report was essentially a rebuttal of one published earlier this year by a British House of Commons committee, headed by Sir Anthony Kershaw. The Kershaw report, to which the

Thatcher Government has still not officially responded, suggested that Westminster should take account of the views of the Canadian provinces, in dealing with the patriation question.

Eight of Canada's 10 provinces oppose the federal Government's resolution now before the Canadian Parliament, asking Westminster to give Canada final control over this country's constitution.

The Canadian constitution is still chiefly embodied in the British North America Act of 1867. The Act is still domiciled in Britain because the federal and provincial governments there have never been able to agree on a system to amend it.

## Suspender belt inventor awarded \$31m

Los Angeles, March 25.—A Norwegian immigrant who invented a suspenderless suspender belt for his wife was awarded \$31m (£14m) yesterday by a federal jury which found that a clothing company stole his idea.

The jury heard evidence for six weeks and considered its verdict for two days before awarding judgment to Mr Knut L. Bjorn-Larsen, aged 58.

It found that the clothing company, Munsingwear, of Minneapolis, had infringed the inventor's patent when it began marketing the Hollywood Vasarette, described as a garterless girdle that is still on the market.

The case has been pending in various courts since 1972. It was not known if Munsingwear would appeal.—UPI.

## Malaysians lead move away from British universities because of higher fees

From David Watts  
Singapore, March 25

Malaysia will shortly set the seal on a new policy to divert its students from the higher educational institutions of Britain to other countries, and the Thai Government is quietly reducing the number of students who will study there in future.

In other South-East Asian countries it is now clear what will be the effect of higher charges for foreign students introduced at British universities this autumn: the increases are likely to mean fewer enrolments from the less well-off countries.

There is bitterness at what many in the area see as a cold-blooded severing of historic ties which, in the long run, will have detrimental effects on trading and cultural links.

But this sense of bitterness is gradually giving way to the recognition that the British Government has no intention of

changing its policy and the sooner reality is faced the better. That does not, however, prevent some Government officials criticizing Britain's spending priorities.

For a number of reasons the Malaysians have been the most outspoken. With the largest foreign student contingent in Britain, estimated at 17,000, Malaysian officials are due to meet next week to consider alternative countries for the higher education of the country's brightest pupils.

Datuk Musa Hitam, the Malaysian Minister of Education, has said he is "fed up" with making representations to the British Government and he, and his officials, are looking for alternatives in the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

The situation presents particular problems for the Malaysians, not only because of a lack of alternative facilities at home and the numbers of students

involved—but because many of those going to Britain were of Chinese origin who are discriminated against in Malaysia itself as a result of the Government's policy of promoting Malays in all spheres of life.

There is thus likely to be more pressure for a better deal for the Chinese at home.

Singapore usually has about 2,000 students in Britain at any one time. Traditionally, the Government-sponsored president's scholars go to Britain and the bulk of the rest are sent privately.

The universities of Kent and Sussex have had representatives in the country making their pitches; asserting that British higher education was still the best available and that with three-year courses in British universities and four-year courses in the United States over all costs were probably not that different.

## Escaping the duplicity of words

There is something very un-English about mime, that ritualized self-parody of exaggerated movements, as if too embarrassing for northern tastes. At least, that was true until a few years ago when teachers or performers of mime were deemed to be ragged audiences and draughty halls and none of the adulation they were used to receiving in Europe and America.

Then in 1978 an American mime performer called Adam Darius, who had studied under Russian émigré teachers, written several books on the subject, taken his act, like Peter Brook, across the Third World, and performed before Emperor Bokassa, settled on London as the place to found a school of mime. His bunch has proved right: today there is fierce competition for a place on the gruelling course, £400 fee and a 9.30-6.30 day. The venture was made possible by Adam Darius's partner, Maria Phillips, a blonde and graceful girl, herself of Russian ancestry, who started the school on private money and now makes it pay.

It is not mime as we know it. Rather, a day-long session of limbering up, with classes in acting, jazz, make up and commedia dell'arte to give the students a kind of physical fluidity and loss of self. Though he psycho teaches the classic forms of mime,



Maria Phillips and Adam Darius: a gruelling course.

Adam Darius talks of them with some scorn. "Illusionary mime", he says, "is visual ventriloquism, a form of theatrical deceit. Indian mime is purely depictational."

His own act, he says, can be thought of as method mining, "organic emotions expressed from within" thereby "freeing the psyche while controlling the physique." Certainly, it is fine to

watch an extraordinarily controlled and rhythmic display, no movement that does not flow from the one that preceded it, neither quite dance, nor theatre, nor acrobatics.

Few of the students have done anything of the kind before. They are all over 17 and come out of a desire, says Adam Darius, to escape the duplicity and deceptiveness of words. Increasingly, too,

they seem to come because as actors, teachers, opera singers they have started to feel the need for the kind of total expressiveness allied to ferocious discipline over their bodies that only this punishing routine can give.

It is not an easy life. To miss a class by being late is to be barred from Adam Darius's own mime session — there are 10 teachers in all — and to miss too many of those is to forfeit the final certificate.

During their three months the students have to prepare a solo performance for graduation. Adam Darius, a feathery man seemingly made of rubber, is a punctilious and exigent teacher.

The Mime Centre goes by the lofty name of Academy. If it looks seedy — a church hall in Kenilworth Town strung about with posters about boy scouts' forthcoming events, the students elegantly inelegant in ragged T-shirts and wool dancers' socks — the school runs the less has a purposeful air of something that is really working.

Whether or not, as he suggests, the centre is actually pioneering a new art form, Adam Darius may be right in his bunch that the English are finally ready for such things.

Caroline Moorehead

## And so to supper

### The Times Cook



### Shona Crawford Poole

Looking up words is a compulsive born of proper caution about making avoidable mistakes which are downright humiliating. It tends to be time-consuming too, because with a decent dictionary there is so much else to read in the adjoining columns and no telling when an unlikely Scrabble or crossword winner will turn up.

It was thus I learned that supper is not only a meal but also a verb meaning to provide with or entertain at supper. That it covers giving the last meal of the day to horses or cattle as well we will, for the present, pass over.

To supper one's friends after the theatre or some other diversion is a delightful way of rounding off a pleasant evening. And if home is not too far, even more enjoyable round your own table than in a restaurant popular enough to enjoy a late night rush.

Suppers of this kind are, ideally, light and simply prepared — not much more than posh snacks really. Champagne cocktails with Pimm's and nothing too distinguished in the way of wine

are just the reviver to sharpen up appetites and give the cook 15 minutes in which to perform a modest miracle.

Assuming that a certain amount of preparation is possible earlier in the day, or the previous evening, a number of possibilities present themselves. A luxurious quiche topped with asparagus or smoked salmon does not take long to heat up, and served with green salad, which should be well varied and well dressed, can be relied upon not to give anyone nightmares. Soup followed by cold meats (served at room temperature not straight from the fridge), with new or sauté potatoes and a tomato salad, is another fuss-free choice.

Smoked trout or a fish mousse, followed by creamy herb omelettes, or a soufflé (prepared in advance up to the point of beating the egg whites) are more ambitious.

Small fillet steaks with a green peppercorn and herb sauce are even grander. With this dish I would offer fresh fruit or a pudding in preference to a first course, and suggest a moist orange almond cake.

Of the dozens of versions of steak au poivre, this is my favourite. Whether the steaks are small or thick, you should be able to fit all six into one decent sized frying or sauté pan.

1 tablespoon moutarde de Meaux  
2 tablespoons peanut oil  
30 g (1 oz) butter  
1 tablespoon mild French mustard  
4 tablespoons cognac  
300 ml (1 1/2 pint) single cream

Trim the steaks and put them dry. Mix together the green peppercorns, thyme, rosemary, tarragon, salt and moutarde de Meaux. Spread the mixture on both sides of the steaks.

Heat the oil in a heavy frying or sauté pan and when it is hot, add the butter which should melt and froth quickly. Before the butter starts to burn, add the steaks, and as soon as the first side is sealed, turn down the heat and cook them as quickly and evenly as you can, turning them over when they are half done. There is no substitute for judgment here as the time they take to cook will depend on the thickness of the meat and how well done you like it.

A chef will test meat by pressing it with his fingers — like choosing a Camembert. It is a skill that takes practice to develop. Failing such expertise, the only alternative is to jab one of the steaks with a pointed knife and see how it is doing.

When the steaks are very nearly as cooked as required, sprinkle them with the brandy and ignite it immediately. As soon as the flames have died down, remove the steaks to a heated serving dish. Stir the mild mustard into the pan juices followed immediately by the cream. Stir the mixture thoroughly and let it boil until reduced by about a quarter. Check the

seasoning and pour it over the steaks.

Serve the steaks immediately with new potatoes, or the best green salad you can muster at this time of year, and hot French bread.

**Orange Almond Cake**  
Serves six to eight  
3 juicy oranges  
55g (2 oz) fresh white breadcrumbs  
110 g (4 oz) ground almonds  
110 g (4 oz) caster sugar  
4 large eggs, separated  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 tablespoon orange flower water

Finely grate the zest of one of the oranges and squeeze the juice from all three. Combine the breadcrumbs, ground almonds, and orange zest and stir in the orange juice.

In another bowl combine the sugar, egg yolks and salt. Beat the mixture until it is light and fluffy, then fold it into the first mixture.

Whisk the egg whites until they hold a firm peak and fold them into the cake mixture. Pour the mixture into a shallow loose-bottomed 25 cm (10 inch) cake tin which has been well buttered and dusted with breadcrumbs. Bake the cake in a preheated moderate oven (180°C/350°F, gas mark 4) for about 50 minutes.

Allow the cake to cool in its tin for about 10 minutes before turning it on to a wire rack. To serve, dust the cake with sifted icing sugar, or with a thick layer of whipped cream which may be plain, sweetened, or flavoured with an orange liqueur.







THE ARTS

# Incomparable festival of theatrical skills

Louisville, Kentucky

Last month the sewers of Louisville went up in a huge explosion that brought manhole covers raining down through roofs and ceilings, and devastated some five square miles of road. Happily, the Actors' Theatre escaped unscathed, but, had it slid into the caracombs, it is an even bet that the company would have taken this act of God (or leak of hexane) in their stride and opened the night's show dead on time.

This incomparable organization has just staged its fifth annual season of new American plays: eight productions over three days, heavily supported by local businesses and by the theatre's 18,000 subscribers, and attended by visiting artists, agents, festival planners and critics from more than 30 countries. Of course, the plays are important not only for themselves but as a pretext for celebrating the whole ATL operation: a crack design and stage-management team, a thrilling group of young actors, an administration that never forgets a face or an interview date—all collaborating in the grand exercise that annually reassembles an international theatre community on the desolate, bulldozed bank of the Ohio river.

For this event, that devoured word "festival" returns to hard currency. Preceding the present conservation boom, ATL is housed in an old Greek Revival bank, its domed lobby leading either upstairs to the Victor Jory Studio or through the manager's office door to the Pamela Brown Theatre. For both the studio and the main auditorium, Paul Owen has designed a basic set for speedy changeover from play to play, and the writer's demands—whether these involve transforming a living room into the ocean bed with a diver drifting down from above, or staging simultaneous action between a bar and a moonlit tree high up in the Smoky Mountains.

That said, the blunt fact is that only one satisfactorily articulated full-length play emerged from the three days. Otherwise, there were plays that lost direction in mid-course, plays that ran into quagmires of personal reminiscence (it is always a danger signal on the American stage when some character starts telling you about his childhood), and impenetrably ill-plotted exercises in hilariously mysticism whose main exponent, the patriarchally bearded Ken Jenkins, sometimes appeared to be running an Appalachian counter-attraction to the main event along the lines of what one of his characters calls a "folk art festival and goat roast".

That succulent line comes from a one-act play on the hazards of intrapersonal bullfighting for which Mr Jenkins gets my vote. Likewise a sizable proportion of the festival's



Kathy Bates (left) and Susan Kingsley in *Chocolate Cake*

other short pieces. What Jon Jory, the director of ATL, has done this year is to take a stand against the tyranny of the full-length play, and to build his programme around a series of short plays, no more than 30 minutes, or 10 minutes. In this department there was some brilliant work, split between two programmes, *Early Days* (brevities on childhood, college life and Vietnam) and *Shorts* (three more extended pieces including Mr Jenkins with his refrigerator stuffed with unmarketable bullfrog cutlets).

The best of the bunch was Mary Gallagher's *Chocolate Cake*, a nocturnal meeting between two food-obsessed ladies, one a secret-eating slob, the other a smartly tailored secret vomiter, in an isolated motel, with nothing between them and the empty night hours but a hidden cake in the cupboard. The whole action springs from the question of whether Joellen, the jealous owner, will take pity on the desperate Della and cut her a slice. Before she does, the play takes us through stages of marital despair, rural versus city desolation from the viewpoint of the two food fanatics ("I've been known to cut a cheesecake with my car keys in midtown traffic"), so as to show the development of a starburst of apparent opposites. Their contrast is stretched to the limit by Kathy Bates and the wonderful, nervy Susan Kingsley, memorably seen scooping up a Chinese dinner with a motel spatula and teasing fork.

By far the shrewdest piece on view in Louisville was William

rape play that does more than justice to the brutality of its subject. The opening is pure nightmare. Early morning in a New Jersey farmhouse. A pretty girl puts down her coffee to go out and deal with a wasp, leaving the door open. A man walks in, knowing she is alone, and slams her into submission on the floor. At which point she grabs the wasp spray and fires it into his eyes, and the play goes into reverse. The first 20 minutes arouse your maximum detestation for the rapist, which the remainder of the piece then tests to the limit. The girl ropes him up with a baker round his neck, chains him into the fireplace, beats him, tortures him with lighted matches, and douses him with paraffin ready to be burnt alive and buried in the garden. When her two friends return from work, she has a cartoon case for killing. As there is no mark on her body, a court may acquit her attacker; even if he is jailed, she will always go in dread of his vengeful return.

The logic is unanswerable, but we are still only halfway through the play, and instead of letting his heroine get on with the job Mr Mastroianni allows the party to sit around debating what to do next. When this happens the play also sits down. This author can dramatize like nobody's business, and he has a nice wit in mordant and climactic ("What day!" exclaims the first girlfriend reuniting with an armful of shopping). But once he allows the frenzied energy of the first act to subside into schematized debate between the heroine and her water-worn, and formerly raped com-

panions, the play never gets back on course. What never slackens is the authority of Ellen Barber who plays the violated heroine with unappealing Olympian fury: when actress and text are working fully together, *Extremities* taps the same forces and generates the same terror as *The Bacchae*. The completely achieved exception among the full-length plays is Wendy Kesselman's *My Sister in this House*, a no less horrifying piece which works through its volubly expressed feelings rather than violent overkill. Its subject is the same French provincial murder case of the early 1930s which Genet took as his starting point for *The Maids*. Miss Kesselman's play is about what Genet left out, and you could practically insert a performance of *The Maids* into the blackouts of *My Sister*.

The basic story is one of harsh domestic exploitation rebounding on the culprit's head. Miss Danard engages the two sisters as servants, and works them almost to death; they then kill her and her daughter with the greatest brutality. As Miss Kesselman tells it, this is a story of genuine horror, just as the girls were ill-used by their mother, so the young mistress Isabelle Danard has her blood sucked by the monstrous Madame. There is also a code of behaviour, observed with fierce pride by mistress and servants alike. Both sides agree that the work must be done to perfection, and that there can be no humane contact between them. Madame in the drawing room and Christine (the elder sister) in the kitchen speak of each other in identical terms:

"I've never had anyone like her before". "I must her with everything". It is acceptable for the employer to inflict physical punishment on the servants. But when she transgresses the code by speaking to them, and attempting to violate their private relationship, then Christine's hand seizes a pewter vase and the mistress's and daughter's brains spatter the floor.

In Jon Jory's production one is long prepared for this by the sight, and the sound, of Christine at the chopping block, preparing each night's delicacies with a sophisticated arsenal of flesh-carving instruments. There are some precarious passages in the text (particularly in the underdeveloped mother-daughter relationship), but the production offers a complete and beautifully composed image of a way of life. Sound is wonderfully used: the counterpoint of kitchen knives against dining room cutlery, with a clock heavily ticking, the girls' youth away. So, too, are the sisters' movements, their frustrations and passions, expressed through mumbled curses, murderous polishing and floor scrubbing; and their voluptuous relaxation into a world of masquerade, fine lace and satin, when they enter their room and turn out the light. The sibling performances of Patricia Charbonneau, and Christine Rose—her features set solemnly above a goose-like neck, marked for slaughter from first sight—stamp themselves permanently on the memory in a production that seems to belong more to the great Continental tradition than to anything American.

Irving Wardle

## Opera

### Oedipus Rex

Grand Theatre, Leeds

Paul Griffiths

Stravinsky's opera-oratorio *Oedipus Rex* is a work like no other, a ritual spectacle designed to be presented by masked performers as living statues, singing in Latin while a narrator introduces the action in the language of the audience. It is a difficult piece to bring off in the theatre, but many of its riddles have been solved with Oedipus nearness in a new production unveiled by English National Opera North on Tuesday.

Taking a cue from the Cox-Hockney *Rake's Progress* for Glyndebourne, the producer, Patrick Libby, and designer, Stefanos Lazaridis, range the chorus and principals in a honeycomb of cubicles stretching vertically to cover almost the whole stage opening. The participants thus appear to have dread witnesses in some hellish court, their faces plague-ridden and white; white with the chalk-white of death, which is one of the main colours of the production; the others being only black and blood-red to underline the barbaric impression of an antiquity bound by curse and taboo. Stark lighting by David C. Jackson pins the inhabitants in their boxes with beams that glare through the curling smoke, and the message that is Creon, a South Sea island rotem in skull mask and feathers, gives the production its terrible presiding deity.

Mr Libby and Mr Lazaridis are surely right to remind us that Oedipus Rex has very little to do with grace and sunlight and Doric temples. Indeed, their potent, grim stage picture is exactly in accord with an orchestral performance under David Lloyd Jones that puts the emphasis on the savage brutality of the wind. Unfortunately, the chorus lacks the same attack, which means that the



Robert Ferguson as Oedipus

piece gets off to a weak start, though it is quickly rescued by the commanding person of Barry Stanton as the narrator. To make him Oedipus's double, however, is clever but ultimately confusing. The real Oedipus is Robert Ferguson, a figure of strength and pride, but unhappy in his vocal insecurity and wobble. Josephine Veasey properly takes the opportunity of Jocasta's arrest aria to repeat the voluptuousness and reason of her Verdi impersonations, and there

is strong singing from Hugh-Nigel Sheehan, doubling Creon and the Messenger. John Tranter is the solemn Tiresias, whose further history is only obliquely the subject matter of the companion piece, Poulenc's *Les Mamelles de Tirésias*. The company's much-acclaimed production is revived still bright and bouncing, with a delicious account of the score under Clive Timmins and a cast led by Kate Flowers and Stuart Harting. Everyone has a marvellous time.

## Manon Lescaut

Logan Hall

Hilary Finch

The sporadic laughter of a crowd, a jewel robbery, frenzied escape and capture, and a few death threats in the desert may not seem at first the ideal stuff of which concert performances of operas are made. And there was, unavoidably, more than a little culture shock on Tuesday at the beginning of the Chelsea Opera's presentation of the one-lollipop among the less well-known concertos of this year's Camden Festival.

Yet in many ways, and if only because it gives us a chance to focus our ears on the orchestral craftsmanship of Puccini's score, *Manon Lescaut* is not ill-suited to the purpose: there

is, for example, the little concert within the concert in Act 2, the evocative Intermezzo, and the pervasive odour of Crisanto. Here and, indeed, throughout, the orchestra generally persuaded us of the case; they were willing to take risks for the sake of excitement, and in their more finely wrought passages, some unduly overdone, they were caught up nicely by Howard Williams's deft tailoring.

Despite Tuesday night's powerfully controlled ensemble, the solo voices here must be the prime movers, and their already strenuous task becomes even harder without the dramatic and physical regeneration and reinforcement of a staged performance. It was partly for that reason, surely, that Manon and Des Grieux excelled themselves only in the last act, despite its long drawn-out agony,

as if they were at last able fully to fuse the musical and emotional experience.

Earlier Janice Cairns as Manon, fresh, pure-toned and a little too guileless vocally, had played the vulnerable young girl almost at the expense of that volatile woman, and her voice, like that of Lancashire Roberts as Des Grieux, lacked strength and sustaining power at the top. Neither had fully mastered the powerful ebb and flow of Puccini's line enough to glory in its turns of phrase or to approach climaxes with a vital slancio.

Tom McDonnell gave a powerful and idiomatic performance as a particularly virile, curlipper Geronte, Laurence Dale injected some sharp drama into his Edmondo and Simon Bainbridge's Lampighter shot a clear ray of vocal light into the opening gloom of the penultimate act.

## True comedy on a touchy subject

Having a Ball!  
Coliseum, Oldham

Ned Chaillet

Regional theatres and their governing boards are notoriously timid. They always want audiences, but they seldom want the shows that will make audiences enthusiastic. The Oldham Coliseum is a rare exception, and perhaps one should credit the Lancashire spirit more than any individual, but Kenneth Alan Taylor's policy as the company's director has done wonders for serious theatre outside London.

*Having a Ball!* is an uproarious comedy about the tedious subject (to say the least) of vasectomy. In the North they trust Alan Bleasdale to turn out good comedies with regularity. So far his work has largely been denied to the southern regions, except, of course, in the case of *Having a Ball!* is one of the plays scheduled for Radio 3's new play festival, all of

England will soon be getting a taste of his masterful stage work.

He sets his story in a private clinic in Manchester. Four of the characters are shortly to be rolled into the operating room for that intimate masculine soap, and the surgeon is a woman. For lesser writers, that would be enough to be going on, but Mr Bleasdale fits in the dangers of nuclear war, the morality of abortion, and the decline of school bullies into glad-handing insurance salesmen.

Kenneth Alan Taylor's production is unrestrained in its exploitation of the comedy, but even with one ramping, naked and even obnoxious patient it finds a decorum totally suited to both the occasion and the theatre audience. It is the best, publicly shamed and three times shy of the operation, who stays the frantic focus of the story, talking to himself, taunting the school bully from 16 years before and inspiring the drunken wife of another patient to a life-affirming declaration of desire.

It would be hard not to admire the serious qualities of the play. Apart from a nuclear holocaust, Mr Bleasdale fits in a spot of wife bashing, with its attendant apology or two, but his skill is to relate comic fascination while inserting the serious themes.

They are not inserted without pain, for the acting is skilful, and nowhere more accurately divided between laughter and tears than in Lesley E. Bennett's performance as a wife who drinks to cover her fear of war and government policy.

Hymns to life are few enough in plays that take themselves seriously. Mr Bleasdale's comedy is rich in affirmation, full of enthusiasm for life and perfect judgment for its audience. Mr Bleasdale is joining the consortium that is taking over the Liverpool Playhouse and has a play planned for London. It may be his year.

Meanwhile, Mr Taylor has performed the comedy for an audience for adult and intelligent comedy than most theatres will allow.

## RSC to do La Ronde

The Royal Shakespeare Company is to present Arthur Schnitzler's play *La Ronde* in London next January, in a production by John Barton with a cast including Susan Fleetwood, Richard Pasco, Judy Buxton, Michael Pennington, Barbara Leigh-Hunt and Carol Ryle.

Mike Leigh's new play *Goose-Pimples* will transfer from the Hampstead Theatre to the Garrick Theatre, opening in the West End on April 29.

## Welsh National OPERA

Tickets from £2.50 to £12.00 still available for the last 3 performances of Richard Strauss's opera in English.

## Die Frau ohne Schatten

(The Woman without a shadow)

The Bristol Hippodrome (0272) 289444

Wed 1 April 6.00 p.m.  
Sat 4 April 5.30 p.m.

## Southampton Gaumont

(0703) 297723

Tue 7 April 6.00 p.m.

Opera Mobile tickets £15.00 incl. seat £10.00 and return coach travel on 14 April from Victoria; phone (01) 461 2222.

No revival planned. The production will not be seen in Britain after these 3 performances.

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## Buddy Rich

Ronnie Scott's

Richard Williams

At its most confined and stylized, big band jazz seems to answer a particular aesthetic craving among its audience for order and system. In the music of Buddy Rich and his 15-piece orchestra, for example, there is no room whatsoever for the spontaneous gesture or the happy accident; the main attraction seems to be the sound and vision of the leader, a small but ferocious figure, always literally whipping his cowed musicians through a series of exhausting calisthenics.

It might be argued that such exercises have more to do with the parade ground than with jazz. During Tuesday night's first set, Rich paid honest tribute to Count Basie and, by implication, Lester Young in an account of "One O'Clock Jump": what place, however, could be found in Rich's ensemble for a wayward genius of Young's dimension?

Technically speaking, Rich is certainly one of the world's greatest drummers. His fills are elaborate but logical, his punctuation brook no argument, and his solos contain stunning examples of the art of cross-sticking. What he lacks is any degree of emotional warmth, and although this seems to impress his fans, it scarcely works to the benefit of his soloists.

The best of them, the fine runner-up Waymon Reed whose 46th and 8th was one of last year's most distinguished mainstream jazz albums, found himself positively trampled towards the end of one solo, when Rich began his tom-tom rudiments about eight bars from home; there, like Steve Marcus, the dependable tenor saxophonist, and Andy Fusco, an alto saxophonist whose small tone and sour intonation suggested that he was raised on a diet of early Jackie McLean records, were hardly given time to clear their throats before being engulfed by the ensemble.



The dwindling violins (foreground) of the NCOS, George Hurst conducting

## Arts agenda

### Shortage of orchestral strings

A tip for aspiring musicians: if you want a secure professional career, take up the violin. There is a national shortage of good orchestral violinists, says Basil Tschakow, director of the National Centre for Orchestral Studies, who is having great difficulty in attracting sufficient violinists for next year's course at the centre. They have received about two dozen applications for the three places on the flute; for the violin they have actually received fewer applications than there are places (26) available.

Tschakow says the flute is easily the most popular instrument—a situation only worsened by the impact of James Galway, there is also no shortage of cellists, clarinetists or trumpet players. The violin is a different matter: in both its first two years, the centre had been unable to fill all the violin places. He says the professional orchestras have long had difficulties in finding enough first-rate players; when he was chairman of the Philharmonic Orchestra they might audition 60 violinists in a year, and would be lucky to gain two or three good recruits.

He believes the trouble stems partly from the difficulty in learning the instrument, and also from teaching which emphasizes the solo and sonata repertoire, although few first-rate players when he was chairman of the Philharmonic Orchestra they might audition 60 violinists in a year, and would be lucky to gain two or three good recruits.

next week, but for violinists, Tschakow is keeping the list open "indefinitely".

What is virtually a small repertory company is being created by Triumph Theatre Productions for a tour which starts next week at Nottingham and continues round Britain until at least December, presenting four productions in all. A shorter tour was mounted by Triumph last year, with Arts Council support, but this year it has been greatly extended, partly to fill the gap left by the withdrawal of the council's grant for touring by the Old Vic company, led by Anthony Quayle, Bernard Bresslaw, John McCallum, Mel Martin and Goggin Withers, and opens at the Nottingham Playhouse next Thursday with Galsworthy's *The Skin Game*, directed by Clifford Williams.

Although some of Philip Larkin's poems have been made into songs, next month will see the premiere of the first piece he has written specifically for setting to music: a choral work, with music by Anthony Hedges, which will be performed by the Hull Choral Union on April 11. Larkin, who is the librarian at the University of Hull, was commissioned to do the work to celebrate Hull's latest cause for civic pride: the opening of the Humber Bridge. He actually wrote the verses about five years ago, but the pre-

miere has been delayed because the completion of the bridge will be behind schedule.

It is not quite a poem of praise: six of the 10 verses are devoted to saying how nice it was before the bridge was built—being alone and not being able to be got at by people from London—was how Larkin describes it. Moreover, he does not see himself using the bridge in the near future, although he likes looking at it.

The title of the piece, *Bridge for the Living*, grew out of the last line: "Always it is by bridges that we live"—a double meaning reflecting Larkin's concern about bridges built between human beings. There is, however, an unintentional third meaning: Larkin points out that *Bridge for the Living* sounds like the title of something about card games.

Among the works pouring from the pen of Peter Maxwell Davies, a little choral piece holds a special place: it marks the birth of a farmer's daughter, Lucy, in the tiny village of Rackwold on the island of Hoy, where he now lives.

He says it was the first birth in the village for 32 years, a "tremendous event" for the island community. Genadi Rozdestvensky will conduct the premiere in June at the St Magnus Festival on Orkney.

Not to be missed: Claudio Abbado and the LSO celebrate the centenary of Mussorgsky's death with a Festival Hall concert next Tuesday, which includes a variety of rarities as well as the original version of *A Night on the Bare Mountain*, Pictures from an Exhibition and Nicolai Gligorov singing the *Songs and Dances of Death*.

Martin Huckerby

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions



## Profits from future races to help inner city areas

By Paul Harrison

With a budget of £100,000, the Greater London Council has set up a fund to help inner city areas. The fund will be used to help with the costs of running the London Marathon, which is expected to raise £100,000 in profits. The profits will be used to help with the costs of running the London Marathon, which is expected to raise £100,000 in profits. The profits will be used to help with the costs of running the London Marathon, which is expected to raise £100,000 in profits.

Christopher Brasher, the council's director of sports, said: "The fund will be used to help with the costs of running the London Marathon, which is expected to raise £100,000 in profits. The profits will be used to help with the costs of running the London Marathon, which is expected to raise £100,000 in profits. The profits will be used to help with the costs of running the London Marathon, which is expected to raise £100,000 in profits."

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## Place in finals not out of N. Ireland's reach

By Stuart Jones

Scotland 1 Northern Ireland 1

It was wet, it was windy and it was a far from ideal day for the first round of the World Cup. But the rain did not stop the players from giving their all. Scotland and Northern Ireland played a hard-fought game, with both teams showing their quality. Scotland took the lead in the first half, but Northern Ireland equalised in the second half. The game ended in a 1-1 draw, with both teams looking to progress to the next round.

There was no doubting the quality of the players. Scotland's attack was well-coordinated, with the forwards playing well together. Northern Ireland's defence was solid, with the players working hard to stop Scotland's attack. The game was a good one, with both teams showing their quality.

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## Harris goal keeps Wales on course

Turkey 0 Wales 1

Ankara, March 25.—Carl Harris, the Leeds United winger, today put Wales a step nearer the World Cup finals in Spain next year. His 68th minute goal decided a scrappy game and kept Wales firm on top of group three. They have taken maximum points from four games, without conceding a goal, and are followed by the Soviet Union, who have won their two opening games.

The winning goal, which came largely against the run of play, followed an appalling mistake by the Turkish defender Hozan, who had an otherwise faultless game. He headed down a cross from the right and the ball fell straight to Harris, whose left foot shot gave the goalkeepers no chance.

In the closing minutes the Wales goalkeeper, Davies, denied the Turks an equaliser with a brave diving save at the feet of the menacing Tuncay. The ball rebounded to Hall, whose shot was also blocked by Davies.

The young and inexperienced Turkey 4-0 by Wales in Cardiff last October, dominated the game and until the score they were on the way to a well-earned draw. Next passing and sharp tackling kept the Welsh forwards, Walsh, James and Harris, at bay. The Welsh defence, however, was solid, with the players working hard to stop Turkey's attack.

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## England out of sorts and out of luck

By Norman Fox

Football Correspondent

England's latest concoction, on paper an agreeable blend of known successes and young hopes, failed to make a persuasive case for the future at Wembley last night when Spain left after three minutes and merited their first victory over the English in eight matches.

For Spain, next year's hosts for the World Cup, this was a glorious evening in the rain. Their experienced team, twice beaten by England in the past year, defended sternly and counter-attacked so effectively that the new English defence never looked at ease.

Although most of the match was spent in the Spanish half, England were persistent in their attack. They played with a certain confidence and a certain skill. They played with a certain confidence and a certain skill. They played with a certain confidence and a certain skill.

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## Goals by Martin and Statham fail to avert defeat

Spain 3 England 2

Granada, March 25.—Late goals from two defenders, Derek Statham and Gavin Martin, failed to avert England from defeat in the B International here today.

Spain, urged on by a capacity crowd of 18,000, showed speed and enterprise from the start and after 20 minutes Alonso beat the English goalkeeper with a spectacular long shot. Elias made it 2-0 from the penalty spot after Statham had been brought down. Statham headed in a second goal, but Spain scored twice more in the second half.

It was only after the third goal that England got to the game. First a superb solo effort from Statham, the West Bromwich Albion full back, midway through the second half, and then a goal by Martin, the Liverpool defender, in the 80th minute. But Spain scored twice more in the second half.

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## Eire bemoan late goal and a controversial decision

Belgium 1 Rep Ireland 0

Brussels, March 25.—An eighty-sixth minute goal from John Coleman, the Republic of Ireland's World Cup dream here tonight, the Irish defended bravely and had a goal disallowed because of a foul by Coleman.

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## League have no objections to QPR pitch plan

The Football League has no objections to Queens Park Rangers' £500,000 scheme to lay out a new pitch at Loftus Road.

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## Muhren scores winner

A well-taken goal from a free kick by Arnold Muhren, who plays for Ipswich Town, helped the Netherlands to a 1-0 win over France in a European group two qualifying match at Rotterdam yesterday.

The Netherlands had to win to retain any hope of qualifying for the World Cup finals. The Netherlands had to win to retain any hope of qualifying for the World Cup finals. The Netherlands had to win to retain any hope of qualifying for the World Cup finals.

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## Sevenoaks triumph in schools' sevens

Sevenoaks 28 Cwmataw 0

Sevenoaks, who had lost the first of their group matches against Plymouth on Tuesday, put on a superb performance in the final of the event, defeating Plymouth 28-0. Sevenoaks put on a superb performance in the final of the event, defeating Plymouth 28-0. Sevenoaks put on a superb performance in the final of the event, defeating Plymouth 28-0.

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## Police run out of puff but survive

By Steve Elliott

B. Police 27 A. Colleges 25

It would be hard to imagine a more keenly contested and enjoyable match than that between the British Police and British Colleges yesterday. Police won by three goals, two penalty goals and a dropped goal, to a goal, a try, a dropped goal and four penalties.

## England's Halpin evades the clutches of Rees on the way to the try-line

By David Hands

England 10 Wales 14

Traditional Welsh virtues at half past two in the second round of the World Cup. England and Wales played a hard-fought game, with both teams showing their quality. England took the lead in the first half, but Wales equalised in the second half. The game ended in a 10-14 draw, with both teams looking to progress to the next round.

## English boys flatter only to deceive

By David Hands

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## Pontypool drive through mud to narrow victory

By Alan Gibson

A sudden pitch and a drive through mud helped Pontypool to a narrow victory over Bristol in the first round of the World Cup. Pontypool scored a try in the first half, but Bristol equalised in the second half. The game ended in a 10-14 draw, with both teams looking to progress to the next round.

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# The questions unanswered in the Hayman case

Ronald Butt on parliamentary privilege and the unexplained attitude of the Director of Public Prosecutions in the use of his discretion

The privilege which allows a Member of Parliament to say, inside the House of Commons, whatever he thinks ought to be said, protected from an action of libel, is granted in the public interest. It exists so that the nation's elected representatives should be free to speak when they think that the public good is served by the disclosure of information on such openness outside Parliament.

Like any other privilege it can be abused, and it seems to be the opinion of some that Mr Geoffrey Dickens did abuse it when he refused to accept that the Director of Public Prosecutions had used his discretion well in refraining from taking proceedings against Sir Peter Hayman for sending pornographic material (of a paedophile kind) through the mail, which is illegal under the Post Office Act.

It has even been suggested that Mr Dickens's revelations of the problems of his own life somehow diminish his right to pass the "moral judgment" implicit in the naming of Sir Peter Hayman. That is easily disposed of. If every man who has left his wife (or vice versa) or whose style of announcing the fact is risible, were to disqualify himself from making moral judgments on other and graver matters, we should find an alarmingly high proportion of the nation inhibited from asserting that murder is wrong and from taking any action open to them to back up that moral judgment.

So the real question is whether the underlying issue in the Hayman case was sufficiently grave and important for Mr Dickens to exercise his right to prefer his own judgment to that of the DPP and of

the Attorney General, and whether the public interest justified the naming of Sir Peter Hayman notwithstanding all other considerations. There is no dispute by Sir Peter Hayman's solicitor, Sir David Napley, that his client was involved in passing pornography illegally through the mail. Sir David's justification of the DPP's decision not to prosecute was on the quite different grounds that a customary factor taken into account when deciding whether to prosecute was "whether the indirect punishment and hardship which a defendant may suffer is likely to be so disproportionate to the severity of the alleged offence and to any penalty imposed by a court that it would be unjust to prosecute."

"This," Sir David asserted, "was overwhelmingly the situation in Sir Peter's case, and manifestly justifies the director's decision. On the contrary, far from justifying the DPP's decision, the excuse demands it. If a man is to be excused the due processes of law, other things being equal, because he is well known, then we are indeed in a two nations society."

It may be said that the DPP does not act precisely on the criterion as phrased by Sir David Napley, but rather on a broader and looser concept of the public interest—but we are still entitled to ask how this is interpreted, particularly since we knew that special treatment was accorded to Sir Peter Hayman in that he alone was allowed to keep his pseudonym ("Henderson") throughout the police proceedings, and unlike the other men who were warned by the police in this case, was not required to appear in court.

But all this is of secondary importance to the fundamental question, which is whether this was a sufficiently trivial case to justify the clemency of non-prosecution, whether granted to a diplomat or a dustman. Of course, we understand the special suffering of prominent people when they fall into ignominy, and most of us might agree that they should be spared it, by the DPP's discretion where the offence really is trivial or merely pathetic. But the offence here is anything but merely trivial or pathetic.

Some may argue that passing pornography through the post, though illegal, is not a very serious offence. But this was not pornography involving what might be called consenting adults but requiring the abuse of children. The issue is not whether a paedophile should or should not be punished for his inclination, but whether he can be allowed to indulge a taste which often requires the exploitation of real children to cater for it, and who are trapped, sometimes by poverty in other countries, into doing what pleases the paedophiles.

Some years ago I was shown material of this kind at Scotland Yard that was the subject of a case before the courts. It was a case about which I had been making inquiries principally because of the curious and incomprehensible reluctance of the DPP's office at that time to call an "expert" witness for the prosecution to counter the "expert" witnesses customarily called by the defence to argue that even the most bestial pornography could have "therapeutic" value. Dr John Court had come from Australia on a private initiative prepared to give evidence, but it was only

after hesitation that the decision was made to call him for the prosecution officially. Significantly, the prosecution was successful in this case, as it had not been when the defence "expert" witnesses went unchallenged.

The material in that particular case was loathsome beyond any normal imagining and it involved children, not fantasy figures. We cannot escape from the fact that in one way or another pornography of this sort always does involve real children, either because they are employed to make it or because it escalates a taste which may put other children in danger.

Indeed, we now have a law (put on the statute book against the wish of the Home Office) at the time which chose to think that there was no real problem) to prohibit the use of children in pornography. This law can only protect children in this country, but when we make such provision for ourselves, can we really say that it is a trivial matter if the addition of the paedophiles here is allowed to encourage the making of child pornography in other countries?

The attempted spread of paedophilia and its justification must not be assisted by connivance. The thought that paedophiles were moving too fast for their own success: "You have touched the funny bone of society. I urge you to graduate your efforts." Likewise, "Release," an organization concerned with drug addicts, for a time provided PIE with an accommodation address, which was given on PIE can now see how near EIE came to achieving a kind of respectability among radical pressure groups and even a bland tolerance in Whitehall, the long-stop of our liberties.

family men with a lot to lose". Indeed, one of the most alarming phenomena of recent years has been the attempt to radicalize paedophilia as inescapable for some people, or even as comparatively harmless.

Some of those most guilty of conniving at the attempt to make the paedophile "movement" respectable have been other pressure groups in receipt of government money and support. Five years ago (January 22, 1976) I drew attention at the time of an attempt to abolish the age of consent to the activities of the Paedophile Information Exchange, and pointed out that *Mind Out*, the journal of the then National Association for Mental Health, now MIND, had given PIE as "one of the organizations to proceed in a case involving child pornography?"

If not the DPP should explain why. He might also tell us why his office justify non-prosecution in this case on the grounds that no financial gain was involved and the material in the Hayman/Henderson case was "not unsolicited".

The Post Office Act makes no stipulation that it is only unsolicited pornographic material that is illegal to send through the mail. Why, then, does the DPP give special treatment in this case? We understand that judges make case law in open court; it is a new departure for the DPP to do so in camera—or is it? In this matter there is a strong public interest, and the DPP has a duty to get his information from, and whoever encouraged him to use it, it cannot be wrong that this case has been thrown open to light by parliamentary privilege, the long-stop of our liberties.

Sir Thomas Hetherington, Director of Public Prosecutions, and Mr Geoffrey Dickens: a question of judgment.

# Why people are hungry for this new beginning

Shirley Williams on the political party to be launched today

Today is the birthday of the first new national party to be launched in Britain for 80 years. The Social Democratic Party is being born on the same day in nine cities, including Wales. The gesture is more than symbolic. Ours is to be a party of the nations and regions, the towns and villages of Britain. It will not be a party dominated from the centre.

It will be a party of individual members. We shall not accept the affiliation of trade unions or businesses. We shall welcome every member, and ask them to contribute as much as they can afford. We shall not allow voting power to be bought by block affiliations. But those who cannot afford to pay the full cost of membership will be welcomed, and their votes will count for as much as anyone else's.

The SDP will be based on the equal votes of individuals and on secret ballots. Our candidates, officers and leaders will be chosen by the members, all of them. Every leader and member of the steering committee holds his or her place provisionally until there is a properly established organization, but must then submit to election. The use of the trade union block vote to elect a party leader who might become the Prime Minister of Britain was for three of us who signed the Limehouse Declaration the immediate though not the sole issue which precipitated our break with the Labour Party. So the new party will be transparently democratic.

Our collective leadership, which will remain throughout this interim period, and perhaps beyond if the membership so wishes, challenges the conventional pyramid structure of the old parties.

It also offers great dividends: complementary experience and complementary knowledge of a wider range of government departments and subjects than any single leader could ever have. The collective leadership reflects in ourselves the participation and mutual respect we stand for, in industry, the social services, and in the family itself. The days of the paternalistic are as dead as those of the autocratic employer. So why should such energies survive unchallenged in politics?

We want the relationship between the steering committee, the Parliamentary committee and the members to be a two-way communication: our monthly newsletter and our discussion papers in a new Open Forum series will invite a response to questions about policy and organization.

Each local group or regional group will, we hope, undertake a profile of its own area—its public services, its industry, its special provision, and then consider what would be the consequences for that locality of certain national policies being adopted, for instance on regional incentives or on minimum educational standards or on local income tax. In this way, the principle of decentralization for which we stand will gain reality.

The danger for any new party, at a time of disillusion with the old parties, is that it becomes all things to all men: that each person projects his or her ideal on to this amorphous and attractive concept. So we have talked clearly about those of our objectives that, according to the opinion polls, are not popular, as well as those that are.

Our commitment, often repeated, to reforming the European Community from within, to stepping up financial

assistance to the developing countries, to true sex and race equality within Britain, are not as we are told, election winners. Yet we have gained the sympathy of a quarter of Britain's voters, and between a third and two-fifths if Social Democrats fight together with Liberals.

Such an outcome is unprecedented in the history of opinion polls in this country. Even more encouraging, support for the Social Democrats comes from both sexes, all age groups and all income groups in approximate proportion to their share of the British population.

Unlike support for the Conservative party, SD support is not nearly three times higher among professional, administrative and managerial groups than among semi-skilled workers. Equally, however, SD support is not disproportionately concentrated among these sectors, as Labour support is. For a party committed to breaking the mould of class politics, we have exactly the support we need.

Furthermore, Social Democratic supporters, if recent polls on attitudes to policy are correct, are consistently more liberal on law and order and capital punishment, more generous on financial aid to the developing countries, more fair-minded towards ethnic minorities than those of other political groups, while being strongly committed to a mixed economy and effective social services.

What is being attempted today is a gamble, of course. Yet if that gamble is not attempted, the future for the country is bleak. In drift into extremism with the Labour Party, which is still unwilling to grasp the real issues of one member one vote, of reselection and entryism, of the move to impose party discipline on elected representatives: that would be to risk the destruction of parliamentary democracy. To cling tenaciously to the harsh and mutually contradictory doctrines of the Government is to risk the destruction of much of British industry and to tear our divided but so far orderly society apart.

The hunger for many people for a new political beginning is evident in the thousands of letters we Social Democrats have received. The writers of these letters desire tyranny; indeed the devotion to individual liberty and to representative democracy is moving, and is expressed in letters from all parts of the country.

They are worried about present and projected future levels of unemployment. They are fed up with the political game that makes each government reject even what was good in its predecessor's achievements; they despair of the unwillingness of the two big parties to abandon class antagonism or to accept the mixed economy as a lasting and sensible compromise. Above all they fear for Britain, and wonder whether she has a future: what, they ask, is to happen to our children?

There never was a better time to make a new beginning than now.

Don't bother to see Naples and die: see Eastbourne and Di instead. The Cremation Society in its monthly journal is advising members of two important events in July: the royal wedding and the society's annual conference at Eastbourne. "If you are coming from overseas," it suggests, "why not attend both?"

Alan Hamilton

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Bernard Levin

## What an Armenian remembers

victims to the total number in the group from which the victims were drawn, are second only to Hitler with the Jews of Germany and Occupied Europe. (By the final test, the proportion of a nation's entire population wiped out, the Cambodian killers leave a possible rival behind, having accounted for at least 15 per cent of their country's people.)

Among the information I now have is a study by the admirable Minority Rights Group, called simply *The Armenians*. True, its section on the place of Armenians in the Soviet Union reads like one of those gushy articles in *Soviet Weekly* about Stalin's rebirth of Armenia so that it would be a mecca for the Armenian diaspora all over the world... the Leninist New Economic Policy provided a flexible framework within which the small shopkeeper and tradesman could make a modest living; the distinguished Armenian architect Alexander Tamanyan, Vice-President of the Russian Academy of Fine Arts, was sent from Moscow... to plan the rebuilding of Yerevan on modern lines, after the ravages of the Armenian national tradition... their underlying loyalty to and dependence on the Soviet Union is beyond doubt... but the hard historical information the booklet contains makes reading as grim as any that has passed across my desk in a couple of decades' reading and writing on the subject of man's inhumanity to man.

First, the figures: In the course of a quarter of a century—between 1895 and 1920—the Armenian race lost a million

and a half persons by the gun or the bayonet, by deliberate starvation, and by privation and pestilence.

It began towards the end of the nineteenth century, when the Armenian Christian minority in the Ottoman Empire began to present a threat to his rule in the mind of Sultan Abdul Hamid. In 1895, Abdul let loose his dogs: some 300,000 Turkish Armenians were massacred in circumstances of the utmost frightfulness. The British consul was an eyewitness of one of the episodes, in which thousands of Armenians had taken refuge in the cathedral at Urfa, which was then set alight by the Turks.

The gallery beams and wooden framework soon caught fire, whereupon, blocking up the staircase leading to the gallery with inflammable materials, they left the mass of struggling human beings to become prey of the flames. During several hours the sickening odour of roasting flesh pervaded the town, and even today, two months and a half after the massacre, the smell of putrescent and charred remains in the church is unbearable.

Not long afterwards, across the border, the Russians turned on their own Armenians, crushing their institutions, including their church, and eventually staging massacres on the Turkish pattern if not scale. But it was only after the overthrow of Abdul's rule in 1908, and the triumph of the Young Turk movement, that Turkey moved towards a "final solution" for her Armenian "problem"; if the Sultan had chastised the Armenians with whips, his successors were to chastise them with scorpions, and soon after the outbreak of the First World War they began:

Turkish Armenians in the Ottoman army were disarmed and herded into labour battalions, where they were starved, beaten or machine-gunned. On 24 April, 1915, two hundred and fifty-four Armenian intellectuals were arrested and deported to the provinces of Ayas and Chars, where they were all murdered by the authorities.

Having thus disposed of those who might offer either physical or intellectual resistance, the Turks could proceed without obstruction: in every town and village of Turkish Armenia and Asia Minor, the entire Armenian population was ordered out. The men were usually led away and shot down just outside their villages. A far worse fate awaited the women and children: they were forced to walk southward in huge convoys to the burning deserts of northern Syria. Few survived... for months afterwards, the roads and tracks of Anatolia were littered with corpses and skeletons. There were various towns and villages in Trebizond, the local Armenians were embarked in boats, and thrown overboard when well out in the Black Sea. A number were dispatched by being hurled down the Kemah Gorge, near Erzurum.

Those who survived the long journey south were herded into huge open-air concentration camps... where they were starved and killed by sadistic guards... The Turks then used Armenian refugees as targets for bayonet practice. When the Ottoman army captured Baku in the autumn of 1918, 15,000 Armenians were butchered. As late as 1921, a British colonel in Erzurum found the Kemalist beating and starving Armenian captives to death. The figures are impossible to estimate exactly; but there seems no doubt at all that 1,500,000 Armenians were exterminated during the First World War and the years immediately following it.

As a result, who was about as mad as Abdul, carried on the work of murder at first, but it gradually petered out, possibly because there were practically no more Armenians left to kill, and since then Armenian Turks have been on the whole free from the fear of murder. Yet the oppressions and restrictions from which they still suffer there are many and abominable: their religious activities are under constant harassment, their educational conditions and opportunities are severely limited, many of their cultural monuments have been destroyed.

It is wrong to murder Turkish diplomats in Australia because of Turkish crimes carried out in Turkey in 1915. Indeed, it would be wrong to murder Turkish diplomats in Australia because of Turkish crimes carried out in Australia today. But I began all this by expressing surprise, as well as sorrow, at the length and bitterness of Armenian memories, and from that position, at any rate, I now withdraw: after informing myself by reading the concise and accurate, and in places, a catalogue of cruelty from which they have suffered, it would no longer surprise me if their memories persisted for another century and more.

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## LONDON DIARY

### Party time for Labour's most civil servant

The indestructible Emanuel Shinwell tripped lightly down the awkward stairs of a Fleet Street cellar bar yesterday, emerged like a diminutive genie of the lamp into the blaze of television lights and instantly demanded a large dram, which he attended to with considerable relish. At this point I shall remind you that Lord Shinwell will be 97 in October. Dullest practising politician had thrown the party to celebrate the publication of his autobiographical book, *Lead With The Left: My first ninety-six years*. He let it be known that his friend Lord Boothby, a mere callow youth of 80, would like to have come but did not think he could manage the stairs.

"What are you all doing here?" he asked impishly, sucking his generous measure of Buchanan Blend. He was immediately set upon by an earnest woman, a Tory reporter who asked him about

Tom Driberg, a name which figured in yesterday's editions of *The Times* and the *Daily Mail*.

"Driberg? Never heard of him. Where is he?" parried the centenarian-to-be. "On the front page of the *Daily Mail*," persisted the electronic news-patcher. "Did you say he was in hell?" said Shinwell. "Or did you say the *Daily Mail*? They're not the same thing, are they?"

Leading figures of all the main parties, except the Social Democrats, attended to pay tribute to this remarkable old man, always assumed to be a Scotsman but actually born in London's East End of Polish Jewish immigrant stock. Two ex-prime ministers promised to attend, and Lord Home actually turned up.

"This is a book where the political pugacity comes through on almost every page. But it is diluted with humour and chivalry, and that is what makes Manny so civilized," said Lord Home in an elegant tribute.

"You would be surprised how nice these aristocrats really are," countered Manny. "When they are rude to each other in

the House of Lords they do it with incredible politeness," adding that Lord Home was a model of civilized behaviour.

The former Tory prime minister positively beamed.

Lord Shinwell was persuaded to discuss politics for the best part of a quarter of a minute. If we failed in anything, he ruminates on a 77-year career in the service of the Labour Party. "It was not in the field of social services or social security. It was in the field of civilized behaviour."

Lurking in a corner behind Lords Cudlipp, Hill-Norton, Home, Peart and Glenamara, I found Manny's kid brother Maurice, a sprightly sprigling of 76, the retired chairman of a Scottish insurance association. He revealed the secret of Shinwell's longevity.

"Our father always told us that the key to long life was one glass of whisky a day, one cigar or pipe a day, and one more than one woman at a time."

The elder Shinwell closed with a nugget of advice for younger politicians. "Don't bother what the press say about you, as long as they mention you. Nothing is more humiliat-

ing than to open the papers in the morning and find they seem to have forgotten your existence."

Don't worry, Manny; there is no danger of that.

### Open secret

While on the subject of Tom Driberg, I must say that the topic would not go away during Lord Shinwell's subterranean get-together. I found myself cross-examining Lord Paget of Northampton, who as Reginald Paget was Labour MP for the said town; Paget and his wife were close friends of Driberg.

Lord Paget thought it hilariously improbable that Driberg, who wore his homosexuality as much as Oscar Wilde wore a green carnation, could ever have been any kind of mole, double agent, informer, or anything else short of a true Brit.

"It would have been absolutely impossible to black-mail Tom," Lord Paget told me.

He was so remarkably open about everything, his difficulty was in keeping his mouth shut. "It is entirely possible that he had affairs, not only with Russian agents but with every other agent in sight. But he was

so spectacularly indiscreet that I cannot imagine anyone in government, Whitehall or anywhere else ever leaving Tom into a worthwhile secret he could give away."



### Mirror image?

After my recent speculation that changes in the ownership of Fleet Street had increased the need for a national daily newspaper of the left, preferably one with broader appeal than the ailing *Morning Star*, I am glad to report that the trade union movement has been making some positive moves in that very direction.

The TUC has appointed Lord McCarty, Fellow of Newnham College and a lecturer in industrial relations, to head its £40,000 feasibility study into the launching of a Labour daily. Helping him will be John Dixey, an executive at the Odeon, Geoffrey Goodman, industrial editor of the *Daily Mirror*, and two retired *Mirror* executives, Percy Roberts and William McClelland.

Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, would like to see the project off the ground and on the streets later this year or early next year. He wants the paper to be "independent and objective" rather than have a blatantly left-wing label tied to its masthead. But it is at least likely to be different;

trade unionists are not enamoured of the way their thoughts and actions are reported by the established media, although I am sure *The Times* is an honourable exception.

It is much too early to say what shape the paper will take; estimates of possible circulation being mooted in the TUC vary from 250,000 to six million, and Murray will not commit himself beyond guessing that its style will lie somewhere between *The Times* and *The Sun*. Judging by the advisers that have been hired, I shall not be surprised if it bears at least a passing resemblance to the *Daily Mirror*.

### Best-fed friend

There are still some bright spots in the country's moribund industrial scene. James Morrell, director of the Henley Centre for Forecasting (economic, not weather) was able to tell an assembly of pet food manufacturers this week that their sales would hold up well in 1981, and that long-term prospects were rosy.

You might not immediately guess his reasoning. Morrell calculates that mounting youth

unemployment will lead to increased violence and crime and that more people will therefore buy dogs for protection. Not only that, the human population in general is getting older and lonelier, and presumably will not find the warm and meaningful relationships it craves with goldfish or hamsters.

I learn from a separate analysis of the petfood industry issued yesterday that what they call "canned dog" sales were up 15 per cent by value in Britain last year and sales of so-called "canned cat" by a quarter. It seems monstrous that a supposedly animal-loving nation should spend almost £400m a year on these bestial products.

Don't bother to see Naples and die: see Eastbourne and Di instead. The Cremation Society in its monthly journal is advising members of two important events in July: the royal wedding and the society's annual conference at Eastbourne. "If you are coming from overseas," it suggests, "why not attend both?"

Alan Hamilton

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## New Books

### The lust for knowledge

**Never at Rest**  
A Biography of Isaac Newton  
By Richard Westfall  
(Cambridge, £35)

The greatest genius of the English baroque age — may Christopher Wren forgive us, but I think, from his occasional, always generous and mollifying appearances in *Never at Rest*, that he would — was a highly neurotic young don at Trinity College, Cambridge, who became the most revolutionary mathematician in Europe at the age of 24, but declined to leave Europe, or even England, what had made him so until several years later. By the time he did, in *Principia* and lesser works, arousing amazement, controversy and enthusiasm, others were working the same field, he himself had also transformed the science of optics, was immersed in dangerous theology, secret alchemical studies, and disinclined to discuss mathematics or astronomy further. There was nothing easy about Isaac Newton (1642-1727).

Which is perhaps the first reason why, of all British Worthies, we know least of all about him — "Nearer the gods" declared Haldane, "no mortal may approach" — and why posterity clings so idly to the simplification popularized by Voltaire of the apple in the Lincolnshire orchard during the year of the Great Plague. We are not exactly basting a path to Woolthorpe Manor, even now, despite its ownership by the National Trust, and most of us would be hard put to say exactly where it is. Perhaps the Trust should attempt a marketing tie-in with *Star Wars* and *The Empire Strikes Back*.

For the second reason, of course, is that much of Newton's work, unlike a play by Congreve or an oration by Wren, is infernally hard to understand. Richard S. Westfall, in the most important

life of Newton since 1857, gallantly goes ferreting for colourful anecdote and picturesque detail, but beyond the information that he owned two silver chamber-pots, had a little interest in art (gave in portraits of himself (numerous), and went to the opera but once in his life, considering it far too much of a good thing, Westfall can only confirm that a life of Newton is the life of an uncomfortable and secretive genius in a vernal and compromised world, a philosopher, as he puts it, among placemen.

There is great diversity in *Never at Rest*, all nine hundred pages of it, but it springs less from biographical anecdote or the pictorialism of its title than from the range of Newton's interests over a long and restless life, first in the moribund swamp of Restoration Cambridge, and then in London during the Whig ascendancy between the "Glorious" Revolution and the death of George I. How very English that Queen Anne should have knighted him not for his work on the mechanics of motion, nor even for his painstaking supervision of the recoinage at the Mint, to which he was appointed in 1696, but for his genuine though modest services to the Whigs. That there was so much more to Isaac Newton than fluxional method and the inverse-ratio proportion is the major discovery of this enormous book.

There is more than one way of reading and enjoying it, too. If, like me, you are irredeemably innumerate, there are considerable chunks in the first half over which, whilst acknowledging their crucial importance, you will have to glide in order to make any headway with the rest at all. It is not that Professor Westfall writes obscurely of quadratics and infinitesimal increments — on the contrary, his book is beautifully homogeneous, the experiments flow in and out of the main narrative, the illustrations are numerous and

Westfall catches much of the excitement even today of Newton's breakthroughs — but simply that either you can follow a mathematical argument step by step or you cannot. It is a sad fact that a quarter of a century after "The Two Cultures", one of the few people who could have reviewed every aspect of this book with authority is the late Lord Snow. For the rest of us, however, the rewards of perseverance and averted gliding are great: not only does Westfall recapitulate the experiments from time to time, he also shows that the pursuit of truth, combined with a genius for the organization of knowledge acquired (what today would be called "information-retrieval") characterized everything Newton's interests, the solid mathematical centre to the speculative but not, in his hands, lunatic fringe. He was far from alone in his alchemical experiments — there was a kind of shared *samizdat* in which Boyle, too, showed interest — but it is bizarre after all the busy logarithms, soaring graphs and the touching sketch of a great comet's path over King's College Chapel, to find him scribbling down thousands of words on the significance of the green line in the golden net and the nitre of the wine.

As an Anan, Newton believed that every step taken by the Church since the fourth century was a step towards greed and idolatry and away from the one, true God. He was a Christian who deplored the Trinity and demoted Christ, and argued that if you could mathematics philosophy and nature, then you could quantify God. This was a conviction so strongly felt and so shocking to the age that Newton took care he broadcast it. For it fell with the Church's official creed, without theoretical profession of which no liveliest was possible for him in either University or State service, and the proto-atheism of Continental thinkers like

Descartes and Leibniz who considered Newton's notion of a creative and intelligent mechanistic God as a "dead spirit" who had set the switches going at the start, impossibly quaint. Newton left Cambridge, where he had always been a solitary figure, in 1696. For the last thirty years of his life, he was a masterly public servant, President of the Royal Society, and intractable Augustan grandee. More than three hundred pages cover this period, rather too many, I think, but they include the notorious quarrel with Leibniz over which had invented the calculus first. Westfall blames both equally, for ungenerosity and dishonesty. Tension informed Newton's entire character and career, and he suffered at least one complete breakdown, in 1693. Mercury poisoning, he has been suggested, but Westfall believes

that Newton's main work done, mental exhaustion prostrated him. Sexuality is so conspicuous by its total absence from the massive biography that one feels positively vulgar suggesting that physical repression may have had something to do with it, but I bet it had. Not so much as a blurb of speculation crosses the Professor's page, and he tells us that after no fewer than twenty years on this book, that is the trouble with writing about one's money: information-retrieval — he felt only that Isaac Newton was receding farther and farther away from him. A certain American, he says, has organized his enormous task beautifully and done our most elusive worthy proud.

**Michael Ratcliffe**

### Disappointed love for a lost leader

**Tito: the story from inside**  
By Milovan Djilas  
(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £7.95)

Djilas loved Tito. He fought with him against the Nazis and worked with him to build a socialist Yugoslavia after the war, sharing the triumphs and the crimes of that period. He rose to high office at Tito's side. "If someone had asked me six months before the eruption of our antagonism whether I could conceive of a force that could separate me from Tito... I would have said no," he writes.

When the split came in 1954 it was not only deeply painful for both men but also a major event in Yugoslav history, for it personified the split between ideals and reality which has plagued all communist parties in power. Djilas was horrified by the way in which the party class turned itself into a new class of privileged bureaucrats. Tito, increasingly monarchical in his royal palaces, saw the need for a strong central authority to hold together the quarrelling nationalities of Yugoslavia.

Djilas pressed his criticisms in the columns of the party paper. Tito at first encouraged him but then woke up to the dangers as the shock struck nearer home. Djilas's ideas, he said, would lead to anarchy. Djilas was stripped of his power and resigned from the party.

but he was never silenced, even by nine years in prison. He wrote relentlessly on, publishing abroad. Now he has moved onto the most sensitive ground of all and written about Tito himself. "I cannot be impartial," he admits, for he is emotionally too close to his subject. His book is not a biography, nor even a detached assessment. It is more a document of the unresolved inner personal struggle of a man whose political life has been entirely dominated by the split, first in friendship and then in complex, painful, ambivalent antagonism. In parts it is very dispiriting. Tito was a poor speaker, we are told. His education was inadequate and his knowledge superficial. He read little, could not spell and his Serbo-Croatian was faulty. In early life he was dismissed from one job after another. He dressed like a dandy, even in wartime, and had an appetite for luxury and power that was "antiquated and degenerate". Worse still, he had "no talent as a military leader" and was excessively concerned for his own safety. (This of the man who led the partisans to ultimate victory in a rough and dangerous war against both Nazis and royalists.) Nor is Tito allowed any credit for the political innovations which have set Yugoslavia apart from other communist states. "Not one of the great ideas of Yugoslav communism was his," he conceived the idea of self-government in 1950," writes

Djilas, betraying, perhaps, a hint of jealousy. However, Tito is gradually granted some qualities to explain his success. He was a "glittering political talent". He had a "shrewd and insatiable drive for power". He was a "politician of staggering proportions and of great independence". He deserves credit for things he did not do, in that he could have imposed a far more rigorous and stifling centralist model on Yugoslavia. But Djilas is not prepared to grant much. In the final judgement Tito created "no lasting spiritual or institutional forms". Indeed, he held back creative pressure for change and in his later years tried to turn the country back to "the simplistic, withered ideals of his youth: to party, to class, to Marxism, to indoctrination". Could Tito have listened to Djilas instead of imprisoning him? He believed he was trying to protect the system which Djilas had helped set up. Djilas seems aware of this. Wracked by guilt for the horrors of the early days, in particular the infamous concentration camp at Goli Otok, where pre-Stalinists were tortured after the break with Moscow, he cries despairingly. "If only there had been freedom of information, if only it had been possible to debate openly... If only, if only... If only we had done things differently, so many problems would have been avoided. His own too, perhaps."

**Richard Davy**

### Absolute equality: a great illusion

**The Politics of Procrustes**  
By Antony Flew  
(Maurice Temple Smith, £9.95)

The most crushing rebuttal of egalitarianism always seems to me to have been the Grand Inquisitor's observation in *The Golem* that "when everyone is a somebody, then no one's anybody".

Professor Flew does not enlist the aid of Don Alhambra in his own tirade against egalitarian doctrines, although he does quote from an impressive body of sources ranging from Aristotle to Bob Dylan. His thesis, however, is the same: the pursuit of absolute equality is a futile and dangerous absurdity. Flew regards the idea that equality is self-evidently and without qualification good as the great illusion of our epoch. His book is not simply a

philosophical treatise, it is also a good old-fashioned piece of polemic attacking "the Guardian reading, professionally social democratic, usually social science trained establishment" which he sees as trying to impose their egalitarianism on the rest of us. Several prevailing orthodoxies are shot down. Professor Rawls' theory that justice is synonymous with equality is rejected on the grounds that the law should not treat everyone exactly alike. The socialist ideal of producing a more equal society through social engineering is attacked for favouring an equality of misery and suggesting that "we are as interchangeable as ants". The principle of equal educational opportunities is dismissed because it would involve abolishing the upbringing of children in families in favour of a "universal system of comprehensive creches". Some of Professor Flew's targets are a little unfair. One

of his main *bêtes noires*, Mr Frank Field, for example, has argued in his new book, *Inequality in Britain*, that the Labour Party has put too much emphasis on equality as an end and not enough on it as a means towards creating greater liberty. There is a deep vein of compassion and often a commitment to diversity lying behind the socialist pursuit of equality which he chooses largely to ignore. He is at his best when identifying the philosophical and political contradictions and impossibilities inherent in pure egalitarianism. His book is an excellent attempt at an intellectual justification for Thatcherism while at the same time proving the point, which Professor Flew obviously regards as of considerable importance, that philosophers can have something relevant to say about the world in which we live.

**Ian Bradley**

### Liberty and the lynch mob come to Barchester

**The Popes and European Revolution**  
By Owen Chadwick  
(Clarendon, Oxford, £30)

At first sight this book is misnamed: it is page 252 before we reach the popes, page 445 before we come to the revolution. Its declared aim is to describe the difference made to the Papacy by the European Revolution of 1789-1815: or, in other words, how Catholicism was like before the deluge and what it was like after, what the community and what the difference. Others have written excellent works on this theme, but this book is unique both in

its focus and its method. The focus is different because a volume on the French eighteenth century is planned in the same series, and so Professor Chadwick confines himself to Italy and Spain, with occasional forays into Germany and Austria; surprisingly, perhaps, Hamlet without the prince works very well. The method is different because the book relies less on narrative than on image and illustration. The popes are not really central to this book; what we are given is an account of two worlds, an account of what happens when liberty and the lynch mob come to Barchester. If space and the care lavished on its portrayal are anything to go by, Professor Chadwick's intention is firmly with Barchester. Detail by detail, in example and vignette, he builds an unforgettable picture of the church of the old order, the world of pilgrimage and procession, of cultivated and absentee cathedral dignitaries and of holy fools like Benedict Joseph Labre, in perpetual circuit of the shrines of Christendom, gentle even to the lice who devoured him. In this world brigands carouse and cook in sanctuary churches, and con-

scientious if harassed clergy think it their duty to help them escape the rigours of the law. It is a world in which miracle and magic co-exist with the reformist ideals of satirist intellectuals like Muratori (whom Professor Chadwick admires) or taciturn innovating Salspols like Scipione de Ricci (whom Professor Chadwick admires not at all). No one else could have given us so marvellous a picture: Professor Chadwick's eye for significant detail is unerring, his enjoyment of the subject is manifest, his knowledge of primary and secondary sources in Italian, German and Spanish unrivalled. But the method has its own dangers. The book has drawn heavily on the journals and travellers' tales of eighteenth-century Grand Tourists, famous and obscure, Catholic and Protestant, pope and hermit, tends to a forest shrine, or a frenzied Capuchin, scourge in hand, excites his outdoor congregation to ecstasies of remorse; there a troop of beggars wait for doles beside a convent door. Over all plays the warm sunshine of Professor Chadwick's affectionate but distancing regard. We rarely come close enough to catch the spiritual anguish of the penitents, the misery of the beggar poverty, the sight of the open sore or the stench of the open sewer. Marvellous as the picture is here and there it leans towards the picturesque.

Professor Chadwick acknowledges his debt to the materials collected in Cambridge by Lord Acton, who had planned a book on this same theme. There is a piquancy here, for this is the least Actonian of books. No hint of the historian as judge; here we understand all it is to forgive all. Even in the central episode of the pre-revolution section of the book, the suppression of the Jesuits, there are no villains. Chadwick concedes that this was the nadir of papal power, a humiliation forced upon the church by the

absolute monarchies of Europe. For its perpetrator, however, Clement XIV, the genial jokester Franciscan who anguished and agonised on the subject, he signed the order that his predecessor would have died rather than sign, Professor Chadwick has no condemnation. He evokes for us the tragedy of the Jesuits, the "poor little, mild, saintly and submissive man whom Clement nevertheless, to placate the powers, imprisoned till his death. This monstrous injustice is portrayed with compassion, but without indignation. Elsewhere in his book Professor Chadwick tells of the famous preacher who denounced from his pulpit the Italian fashion of topless dress as "lascivious, immoral". His denunciations were sincere, yet when he found it in the confessional he realized that fashions are odd, that the Cardinal Ruffo, for example, was infectious, that though he must reproach the woman in his box he could not think it to be for her so heavy a sin. For Professor Chadwick the historian is neither preacher nor judge, but confessor, not a lion but a lamb. The last quarter of the book, devoted to the revolution itself and its aftermath, is more conventional in treatment. The familiar figures are here: Cardinal Chiaramonte (Pius VII) baptizing democracy in his famous Christmas sermon of 1797, Cardinal Ruffo (secretly named) at the head of a rabble of 17,000 in Calabria, reconquering the south for Christ with pitchfork, flail and pike. Metemorphosing the papacy as a pillar of reaction in post-Napoleonic Europe. But the conclusions drawn from all this are perhaps more surprising. Professor Chadwick sees the church stripped of much of its influence, but also purged of much of its infirmity. This earlier historians also have seen. The church of the nineteenth century was not simply the triumph of Ultramontanism, a papal absolutism good or ghastly according to one's point of view. The church of the nineteenth century dwarfed all other bishops in importance, the church over which they

presided had absorbed certain eighteenth-century ideals. The projected reforms of "Jansenist" reformers like Scipione de Ricci had seemed to end in a cul-de-sac, discredited by the common ground they shared with Revolution, overwhelmed in papal reaction. In the early nineteenth century this world was a changed world. Devotional anachronisms like Archbishop Capelatro of Toronto, "the most charming Archbishop of the Christian centuries", an aristocratic scholar, collector, who disliked popular devotion, excess, minimized the office of the pope, longed for a married clergy, frowned on religious orders but, like a true son of the Enlightenment, conformed in a changed world. Observed men, and liked them, and had small wish to change them, and in extreme old age cheerfully submitted by request of Rome, to a change of life, of ninety-two with a smile on his face. Professor Chadwick discerns in the new order of the nineteenth century a victory, qualified but real, for the ideals of such men. Muratori and his like had deplored the anarchy of popular religion, had longed to see mass in the parish church at the centre of Christian life, and not the wonder-world shrine in some remote and holy place. This the nineteenth century secured. If men now knew that faith was fragile, and whole nations might desert, they knew also the desire to strengthen and foster it. "All things," Professor Chadwick, tells us, "were changed". Gone were the rivals to orderly, paragoned piety. The hermit-shrines lay in ruins, the hermits dead or forgotten, the virtus evaporated as image or relic lay crushed under long-passed Jacobin boots. Church and order, he has varied, was "more logical, more intelligible, less cluttered". The priest was no longer a mere mass-priest, more often a pastor. This claim Professor Chadwick, surely rightly, was progress; the truth, the reformer's truth, would out in the end. Maybe the spirit of Lord Acton watches over this book after all.

**Eamon Duffy**

### Quick Guide

**Oxford American Dictionary** (Oxford, £9.95). OAD is the latest graduate from the great OED word-factory in St Giles', and gives the Oxford stamp to the American language. It has more than 70,000 headwords, about as many as COD, including all those likely to be met with in everyday American speech. It is edited by three American lexicographers and Oxford's stern Joyce Hawkins of OPD (paperback) acting as their guardian angel. It will be a humongous help to Brits who wish not to appear schmos, and not to commit snafus, goofs, and blongers in AmeriEnglish.

**Scotland: Archaeology and early history**, by Graham and Anna Ritchie (Thames & Hudson, £10.50). Scotland is unusually rich in archaeology from standing stones to the splendours of Maes Howe. This volume in Glyn Daniel's series *Ancient Peoples and Places* bristly surveys and illustrates the field from the first hunters and fishermen of about 6000 BC to the union of the Picts and the Scots in AD 843.

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### Fiction

**When Your Lover Leaves**  
By Susan Trott  
(Gollancz, £7.95)

**Odd Woman Out**  
By Wendy Simons  
(Angus & Robertson, £5.95)

**The Fate of Mary Rose**  
By Caroline Blackwood  
(Cape, £5.95)

**Other People**  
A Mystery Story  
By Martin Amis  
(Cape, £5.95)

Not a good week for cats, rapists, or adulterers. In three out of four new novels, sinister liaisons end in tears or worse. Rapists fare little better. One is ignominiously hunted down by a gang of OAP vigilantes, another retired from the plot, while a third, well, who can be sure what happens to any of the characters in *Other People*? As for cats, they either disappear (*When Your Lover Leaves*), get run over (*Odd Woman Out*), or find themselves at the mercy of dedicated cat-haters (*The Fate of Mary Rose*). Only the pages of the new Martin Amis

can a cat walk with impunity, which is not at all what you'd expect from the writer who, so outraged by felineophilia, by his treatment of *The Mandarin* in *Dead Babies*. When *Your Lover Leaves* and *Odd Woman Out* are both second novels by young women writers concerned with the same theme — a woman's feelings when her lover rejects her in favour of his wife. Both have heroines in their mid-thirties, whose lives are shattered by common trauma neatly point up the differences between the societies they live in. Susan Trott's Ronda is a Californian poetess who makes meat meet by preparing whole some vegetarian soups for local restaurants. In moments of extreme angst she tosses off a stanza or practises a little yoga, while her lover, the town mayor, plays the clarinet in bed (*When Your Lover Leaves*, since you ask, but it's running idle). Ronda, really, conspires. Not jogging, you understand, but a punishing fifty miles a week training schedule in preparation for her first marathon. Occasionally she succumbs to the little green devil and lobs a metaphorical grenade into the lap of her ex-lover or his wife. She also survives a cancer scare and an affair with a very run fellow athlete, who might be the Marin County rapist but isn't, and may be about to retire into a monastery but doesn't. When *Your Lover Leaves* comes to a close, Amis, just a found it perceptive, funny and thoroughly endearing, for all its badness. Maria, the New Zealand journalist in *Odd Woman Out* is a younger, less wary, less The New Woman, and she needs

to be, since her lover, political scientist Charles Hugo, is a very nasty piece of work. Unlike Ronda, Wendy Simons tries to throw light on all three corners of her version of the eternal triangle, and her concern is with the situation rather than just the characters involved. Charles's wife, Hester, is an arty weaver, who only emerges from the shadows as the novel progresses. She is presented as a natural victim, pathetic, whose attempts to befriend her husband's mistress, and ludicrous as she wards off the advances of a lecherous waterbed salesman. But there is nothing ineffectual about the action she finally takes to ensure that Charles and Maria don't ride off into the sunset together. There is a classically sadomasochistic relationship, she being more powerfully attracted the clearer she becomes that he's just stringing her along, he scarcely bothering to conceal the pleasure he derives from tormenting the women who love him. *Odd Woman Out* is a highly moral tale in which happiness is reserved for the minor characters. Maria's Cheery flatmate, Bobbie, and her former boyfriend Robert, who are brought together by their shared disapproval of her egotistical but self-destructive pursuit of Charles. It's an old, old story of course, but Miss Simons is a wickedly sharp observer of the excitement and messiness of clandestine relationships, and she almost manages to persuade us that she is the first writer to discover that three into two won't go. Caroline Blackwood and Martin Amis are both established writers with a decidedly

black view of the world. The *Fate of Mary Rose* is a very nasty piece of work, which could be how a psychopathic historian and his loopy wife are affected by the sadistic murder of a local girl the same age as their daughter. The short answer is that they become madder and nastier, but I found little to admire and nothing to enjoy in this excursion into Highsmith territory. As the whole world now knows, Martin Amis's *Other People* is an opaque book, so I followed his suggestion to read it twice, confident that his hubris would be suitably punished. Alas, maddening though it is to admit it, the effort was worth while. A second reading reveals inconsistencies — why should the amnesiac heroine know the difference between a crow and a sparrow when she isn't even sure whether or not she has a mouth? But the longer you spend in Mr Amis's hellish world, the more time you have to relax and to appreciate that, for all its savagery and obscurity, *Other People* is a very funny book. It's also occasionally over-written. The sentence "choirs of betrayal serenade his every thought" has a fine ring to it, but what does it mean? And what other author would dare write "the balcony puddles pinged with their space invaders from the sky, helplessly reflecting this new war of the worlds" when what we're actually being told is that it's raining? But there's neither doubt that the boy can write, nor that *Other People* is an achievement light years ahead of his earlier novels. It had me purring with pleasure.

**John Nicholson**

**Is this a modern classic?**  
**The Book of Ebenezer Le Page**  
**G BEDWARDS**

This extraordinary book... is not a novel. It is not an autobiography. I don't know what it is, other than a work not so much of talent as of blemished genius. It is imperfect and splendid.

**William Golding, The Guardian**

"A startlingly original book... but is it a great novel?"

**Peter Tinniswood, The Times**

"It is hard to do justice to this astonishing work... There is so much to praise — tenderness, comedy, the elegiac evocation of a way of life that has gone. And, above all, Ebenezer himself."

**Nina Bawden, Daily Telegraph**

**Hamish Hamilton** £7.50



ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 16. Dealings End, March 27. § Contango Day, March 30. Settlement Day, April 6

..	5.4	6.0	5.7	<b>SHIPPING</b>
-1	7.9	11.6	6.3	

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Problem of industrial action with political ends, page 21

# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

**Stock markets**

FT Index 307.4, down 4.3  
FT Gilts 69.81, down 0.27

**Sterling**

52.2630, down 30 points  
Index 100.6, unchanged

**Dollar**

Index 99.5, up 0.3  
DM 2.0855, up 40 points

**Gold**

\$328.50, down \$12

**Money**

3 mth sterling 12 1/2-12 3/4  
3 mth Euro \$ 14 1/4-14 1/2  
6 mth Euro \$ 14 1/4-14 1/2

### EEC refund of £276m for British regions

The European Community will transfer about £276m to Britain before the end of the month to help pay for special infrastructure investment programmes in five regions.

The payments, which come after last year's agreement to cut the United Kingdom's EEC budget burden, are being made in respect of Britain's 1980 contributions. They bring the level of refund so far received for last year to £644.6m or 80 per cent of the total amount to which Britain is entitled.

The regions which benefit from the transfer are Scotland, Yorkshire and Humberside, Northern Ireland, the North of England and South-West England. Roughly 40 per cent of the money will be spent on telecommunications projects, almost one-fifth on water and sewerage improvements.

**£8m rights issue**

Country and New Town Properties is raising £8m through a rights issue of one for two at 53p a share. British and Commonwealth Shipping is taking up its 40 per cent entitlement, and so is Mr Gerald Newton, chairman, for his 6.6 per cent stake. The balance of the issue, 8 million shares, is being underwritten by stockbrokers Rowe & Pitman. The money will help the group expand in North America and improve the European and United Kingdom portfolios.

**British Gas office deal**

British Gas has paid £24m for its Marble Arch, London office building. The property was jointly owned by Rank Organisation and Newarthill, through a Sir Robert McKelvey subsidiary. Rank will use its £11.4m profit to reduce its borrowings and Newarthill said it had received a large surplus on the deal.

**£600m Sudan debt**

Agreement on a £600m (£300m) debt rescheduling for Sudan is expected in two months. The five main international creditor banks, working on behalf of more than 100 other banks, agreed outline terms for the package last October and the Sudanese authorities are now discussing the details.

**Belgian bank rate**

The Belgian National Bank has announced a one point increase of its discount rate to 3 per cent. The rate for current account and special deposits was raised two points to 15 per cent.

**Isso price rise**

Further increases in petrol prices are the way. Esso added an additional 2p a gallon on midnight last night, and other increases are expected on other companies.

**loover plan rejected**

The 23,000 shopfloor workers at Rover's Cambridgeshire plant near Glasgow have rejected the company's latest plan to cut costs.

**Wall Street high**

The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 1,015.22, up 0.9 on Wall Street yesterday. Its best level in over eight years. The S & P 500 index was 1,234.23 while the SDR rate was 0.345155.

### PRICE CHANGES

ises	13p to 75p	Midland	8p to 318p
glo Am Corp	13p to 75p	Paterson Zoch	8p to 318p
ria Newspapers	13p to 75p	Godfrey F.B.	8p to 318p
ia Invest	13p to 75p	Stavely Ind	8p to 318p
risson Cros	13p to 75p	Weeks Petrol	8p to 318p
tal Closures	13p to 75p		

### THE POUND

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Stralia S	1.92	Netherlands Gld	5.40
uria Sch	35.20	Portugal Esc	12.65
gum Fr	82.25	South Africa R	2.02
ida S	2.73	Spain Pta	166.00
usark Kr	15.50	Sweden Kr	10.79
land Mkk	9.57	Switzerland Fr	4.47
nce Fr	11.45	USA \$	2.32
many Dm	4.66	Yugoslavia Ddr	81.50
ce Dr	116.50		
ngkoma S	12.30		
land Ft	1.34		
Y L	244.80		
an Ya	496.00		

## Chancellor renews plea for single figure pay deals

By David Blake  
Economics Editor

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer yesterday launched a new government drive to talk down the level of pay settlements with a call that they should be "in the range" of a single figure next year. Addressing the Commons Treasury select committee, Sir Geoffrey drew encouragement from the fact that people have "chosen lower pay settlements and higher growth" in recent months.

He called for a return to the experience of the 1950s when wage increases were low and came from expanding output, not inflation.

The call for pay restraint was coupled with a strong hint that it should be possible to cut interest rates further in the year ahead. Sir Geoffrey said that the "crucial" need to get interest rates down had played a big part in so many of this month's tough Budget decisions.

He showed considerable confidence in asserting that the recession would bottom out some time during the first half of this year, claiming that evidence to support this view was visible throughout the country. The Chancellor's performance was generally far more assured than his earlier appearances before the committee. He strongly defended the Budget strategy, and gave warning that pumping in extra demand would have at best a short-term stimulatory effect on output.

The MPs who questioned him scored few points, though they did force him to admit that the Government was concerned about the way in which public spending cuts have hit capital investment rather than current expenditure. Work was under way to look at some of the issues which this raises, he said.

The Chancellor stressed his keenness to involve private capital in joint schemes with the public sector, as soon as they could be shown to be profitable. But he also called on nationalised industries to raise more of their own money. A 1 per cent reduction in costs could liberate an extra £300m for investment he said.

The Chancellor said at his

most confident in rejecting the idea that setting a higher public borrowing limit for next year would have aided recovery. Doing this would have held up interest rates, which might have kept up the exchange rate, he argued.

This would have benefited consumers at the expense of industry, and his Budget had sought to switch some of the country's burden away from the corporate sector.

Because committee members found few inconsistencies in the Government's forecast of its spending and taxation, the Chancellor was able to use the session as an opportunity to put across his point of view more than he had on recent similar occasions.

He was clearly determined to get across the message that falling inflation must imply falling pay settlements and that by this time next year they should be down to the middle of the single figure range, though he refused to fix on any norm.

But this would seem to imply that the Government hopes that earnings will rise by about 5 to 6 per cent during the next pay round, which begins in summer. This would be slightly below the projected rate of inflation, though the Government ministers hoped that in next year's Budget they might be able to cut taxes.

But the Chancellor warned against believing that North Sea oil would provide a new windfall for the economy in years to come.

He pointed out that the Government was already receiving £5,000m a year from the North Sea, yet it was still running a deficit of £10,500m.

[North Sea oil and gas production was worth £5,600m or 3 per cent of gross national product in 1980. It is projected to rise to £10,200m or 5 per cent Britain's gnp by 1984, the Treasury estimates.]

The Chancellor did not pretend that any strong recovery in the economy was likely over the next 12 months, but he did say that it was possible to be "too sceptical" about signs that the recession was bottoming out.

## Union threat to disrupt bank cash deliveries

By Margaret Pagano  
Commodities Correspondent

With the 24-hour Barclays Bank strike expected to start at 4.0 pm today, the prospect of further disruption in the banking industry heightened as union officials threatened the distribution of coins and banknotes from cash centres through selective industrial action by messengers.

The Banking Insurance and Finance Union (Bifu) yesterday decided to ballot selected groups of messengers on whether they want to take action in support of the pay dispute involving 70,000 clerical staff.

The union's executive will meet tomorrow week to consider the next step in the light of both that ballot and a ballot of 7,000 clerical staff who are being asked if they will take part in the second stage of limited industrial action being planned by the union.

Around half of the 400 Barclays Bank computer staff at its Gloucester and Wythenshawe centres have voted to strike. These are at the hub of the bank's operations and control Barclays' automated cash-dispensers-Barclaycard authorisations, and settlement of customers' accounts.

The effect on customers is still unclear, but Bifu said Barclays may be shut if enough operators are called out. Otherwise, Barclays' subsidiaries will be lost, customers' accounts will not be updated and clearing will be halted for the 24-hour period.

Barclays admitted last night that the strike would cause internal disruption but that there would be minimal inconvenience to customers. The spokesman said the Barclays bank could be stopped but the bank thought it unlikely. "It will be a 24-hour hiccup", he said.

Mr Nick Cowan, director of the Federation of London Clearing Bank Employers, said yesterday that the centres control Barclays' nationwide network. The strike would have more effect because the Bifu members are computer operators rather than the clerical employees who took action at Lloyds earlier this week.

Delays in clearing cheques could be up to two days, Barclays banks may be stopped and accounts would not be updated and this would create a backlog of work. But Mr Cowan added that the centres run on a 24-hour and seven-day week basis and should be operating normally within a day or two.

The Clearing Banks Union, which represents 53,000 members in the five clearing banks, has not instructed its members to cross Bifu picket lines but has left it to individuals to decide. Results of the union's ballot on industrial action will be known on Monday.

Bifu said it was "delighted" with the result of the 24-hour stoppage by clerical staff at the Lloyds computer centre at Sanson House, Blackfriars, which ended on Tuesday night. Union officials claimed that "the bulk of cheques" had not been cleared during normal working hours. Lloyds management said, however, that about 1.1 million cheques had gone through normally.

## Conditional go-ahead for Berisford's British Sugar bid

By Michael Prest  
Commodities Correspondent

A renewed bid by S. & W. Berisford, the commodity trading group, for the British Sugar Corporation is possible after a Monopolies Commission ruling yesterday, the commission said, though the merger might operate against the public interest, Berisford would be allowed to go ahead if it agreed to safeguards laid down by Mr John Biffen, the Secretary of State for Trade.

The commission specified two conditions for the bid proceedings. One was that Berisford would have to cease trading sugar refined by Tate & Lyle, except where the sugar was bought for use in Berisford's or BSC's own products.

The second condition was that BSC must be kept as an independent subsidiary, and that Berisford must publish financial statements about the merger BSC equivalent to that produced by BSC at present.

Berisford said immediately after the announcement, made by Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Minister for Consumer Affairs, that its board had asked for a meeting with the Government to discuss plans for the disposal of the Government's own 24 per cent stake in BSC.

BSC shares gained 5p in after-hours trading to close at 290p, with about one million shares reportedly changing hands. But despite the market's evident belief that a new bid was likely, Mr John Beckett, chief executive of BSC, said that he would await Berisford's next move.

It is not clear, however, that BSC met last night with its professional advisers to consider defensive moves. Both BSC and Berisford feel that the conditions laid down by the commission do not present an obstacle. Berisford is believed to have told the commission that it would accept these restrictions.

Berisford's original £124m bid for BSC was made last May, and the reference to the commission came in June. At the end of 1980 the commission asked for a three-month extension, chiefly because of the complexity of the sugar market.

What primarily concerned the commission was that there is not in its judgment, much competition in the supply of sugar to Britain. There are only two refineries, BSC, which handles beet and whose prices are basically governed by the EEC, and Tate & Lyle, a financially weaker cane sugar refiner, based in the Caribbean and Pacific.

The commission did not accept Berisford's claim that its sugar importing activity as a trader would compete freely

## Prudential profits fall hits market

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke  
and Richard Allen

One of the country's largest insurers, Prudential Corporation, sent a shock wave through the stock market yesterday when it revealed profits down by almost without exception the market's specialists had misjudged what was happening at the Prudential in the second half of 1980. After the results, the shares fell by 16p to 243p.

There was selling of other leading insurance shares, notably those of Legal & General, another big life insurance group, due to report shortly. Its shares fell by 7p to 245p.

The Prudential's life business continued to grow last year: premium income exceeded £1,000m for the first time, increasing by nearly 15 per cent. Profits from this area were 22 per cent higher at £29.5m.

But there was a different story on the general insurance side. Here underwriting losses more than doubled to £33.9m. The group's total income remained almost static at £33.6m. So the Prudential was unable, as is usually the case, to offset its losses before tax.

In Britain, where there was a £1.5m detour from the underwriting losses of £9.3m, the group blamed an increase in the number and cost of claims, particularly in house contents insurance.

A similar tale of underwriting losses was reported from the Prudential's Australian, Belgian and Canadian businesses.

## EEC ministers set for crucial steel talks

By Peter Hill  
Industrial Editor

European Community industry ministers are to begin crucial discussions today on the continuing crisis in the steel industry. The outcome of this meeting will largely determine whether the steel industry begins the slow climb back to financial strength, or whether the continuing price war will claim further victims, and thousands more steel workers' jobs.

Today's meeting will consider proposals for a coordinated reduction of excess capacity, which has been an important factor in the collapse in steel prices and the phasing out of state aids for the industry by the middle of 1983.

The efforts to reach agreement on these proposals are being complemented by discussions among the steel producers who are trying to secure voluntary curbs on production and deliveries when the EEC mandatory controls end in June.

Mr Ian MacGregor, the British Steel Corporation chairman, who addressed a conference in London yesterday organised by the Institute of Purchasing and Supply, stressed the need for steel producers to try to achieve stability between supply and demand.

"There has been no increase in prices for over two years, and this despite the high level of domestic inflation. The position has been worsened still further by the recent relative strength in the pound, which has reached such low levels that no steel producers in Europe are in profit. This is a nonsensical situation and the success of British Steel's corporate plan will depend on some strengthening of price levels through 1981-82."

Mr MacGregor defended the corporation's policy of cutting prices to match those of imported steel, and insisted that it was not their intention to undercut prices in the market deliberately to take business away from the private sector.

Mr William Sims, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation who



Mr William Sims: fatal flaws in plan.

clashed with Mr MacGregor yesterday over the foundations of the corporate plan, will today urge Viscount Edmond Davignon, the EEC Industry Commissioner, to put pressure on the United Kingdom Government to "freeze" further reductions in corporate capacity. He will press for capacity cuts within the EEC.

At the same conference he described Mr MacGregor as "an absolute dictator" and criticized the manner in which the corporation had formulated its corporate plan.

"As far as we are concerned we cannot endorse something we did not see. There are fatal flaws in the plan. We are following a pattern of contraction which is wrecking our industrial base", he said.

Improvements: Preliminary results from the first two months of operation of the British Steel Corporation's corporate restructuring plan indicated significant improvements. Department of Industry officials told a select committee of MPs in the House of Commons yesterday (Patricia Tisdall writes).

Mr Kenneth Blinning, secretary of the iron and steel division of the department said that the results were due to the bulk of cheques "had not been cleared during normal working hours. Lloyds management said, however, that about 1.1 million cheques had gone through normally."

## Rothschild strengthens its corporate finance arm

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Merchant bank N. M. Rothschild is strengthening its corporate finance department by recruiting Mr Michael Richardson, son of stockbrokers Cazenove & Co.

Mr Richardson, who will lead the department, is one of the most senior of Cazenove's corporate finance team where he has been advising House of Fraser in its battle against Loro. He is also on the board of The Savoy Hotel group and helping fend off the unwelcome bid from Trusthouse Forte.

Cazenove are brokers to Rothschild, but Mr Richardson said the offer of the post came as an enormous surprise. He looked to the challenge of being a principal rather than an agent.

Mr Evelyn de Rothschild, who heads the merchant bank, said yesterday that, although there was a strong young corporate finance team at the bank, it needed a good man at the top and Rothschild would now be "trying to build a team which will be as competitive as any in the City".

Rothschild's corporate finance

## Shipbuilders pay talks adjourned

By Donald MacIntyre  
Labour Reporter

Talks on a pay and productivity deal for British Shipbuilders' 70,000 manual workers and staff will resume next week after rejection by the unions of proposals for sweeping changes in working practices in the industry.

Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Union leaders have made it clear informally to the corporation that they will not accept plans to allow skilled workers to switch between different trades very

much further than at present. The plans expand a declaration already made by top management that they are seeking "total interchangeability" between trades as one of the productivity measures they wish to see attached to this year's pay deal.

Although the outline proposals may be discussed when pay talks resume, probably on Monday in Newcastle, the confederation will say that the detailed interchangeability measures are neither realistic nor as beneficial as British Shipbuilders believe.

For its part, the corporation is determined to reduce what it sees as costly restrictive practices, particularly among skilled shipyard workers. Many of the proposals would affect working practices particularly within the Amalgamated Society of Boilermakers.

Meanwhile, talks on the corporation's restructuring programme were adjourned after a brief meeting held yesterday. There has been a shortfall of 600 in the staff reduction of 2,600 which British Shipbuilders was aiming at. The possibility of compulsory redundancy for the 600 was not raised at yesterday's talks.

## Tokyo retorts that Western industrial production cannot compete Chorus of protest at Japanese export drive

Japan is facing a barrage of protest and complaints from nations across the world because its highly efficient industrial plants are threatening the future of domestic competitors in the United States, Western Europe and Asia.

But in retaliation, Tokyo officials complained that Japan was being asked to curb its exports because Western products could not compete. Officials in the Ministry of International Trade and Industry claimed Japan had achieved this competitive edge because it had outstripped the West in industrial production over the past 13 years.

The loudest protest came from Washington yesterday where President Reagan met Mr Masayoshi Ito, the Japanese Foreign Minister, to persuade Japan to curb car exports to the United States. Tokyo officials said their motor industry would restrain car exports to America on a voluntary basis. These exports have risen from 800,000 vehicles in 1975 to 1.9 million last year.

On another front, M Francois Missoffe, a French trade representative, told Japan that France might be forced to introduce special measures to protect its markets from more competitive Japanese cars and other industrial goods.

Defending France's policies in an interview with a Japanese news agency yesterday, M Missoffe is reported to have said the French Government had decided to limit Japanese car exports to less than 3 per cent of the country's domestic market "until our cars can compete with Japanese cars". Sales of Japanese cars in France rose by 25 per cent last year to 54,697.

Earlier this month, the EEC accepted a French proposal banning indirect imports of Japanese colour television sets.

Even Europe's most efficient industrial power, West Germany, has lodged protests that Japan is beginning to capture an alarming sector of its domestic car, television, electrical consumer goods and machine tool markets. German diplomats are worried specifically because Japanese car exports to West Germany rose by 70 per cent last year.

Recent complaints from the EEC forced Tokyo to urge Japanese industrialists to regulate car exports to Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg in "a more prudent and moderate manner". The Association of South-east Asian Nations has also complained about one-sided trade with Japan.

In their defence, the Japanese say their industrial production has risen by 130 per cent since 1967, compared with 50 per cent for West Germany, 30 per cent for the United States and 10 per cent for the United Kingdom.

The Japanese Government is expected to deal with the problem of placating the United States first.

A formula for voluntary cuts in car exports is expected to be presented to the United States when Mr Zenko Suzuki, the Japanese Prime Minister, travels to Washington in May.

Peter Hazelhurst  
in Tokyo

## Refinery rescue fails

By Hugh Clayton

Sugar processors have rejected a plan to keep the Tate & Lyle cane sugar refinery at Liverpool open by exporting surplus stocks.

The company told trade union leaders last night that exploratory talks with the British Sugar Corporation about a joint export venture had ended without agreement.

The venture was proposed by union leaders in February and

**SIRDAR**

**INTERIM RESULTS**  
(unaudited)

	25 weeks ended 9th January 1981	23 weeks ended 11th January 1980	Year ended 30th June 1980
Turnover	14,266	12,022	22,988
Trading profit	2,380	1,812	3,891
Deduct: Interest	55	143	165
Profit before taxation	2,305	1,669	3,726
Taxation (U.K. Tax 52%)	965	634	1,310
	1,340	1,035	2,416
Deduct: Extraordinary items	10	9	18
Profit for the period	1,330	1,026	2,398
Earnings per share pre-tax	19.3p	13.9p	31.0p
Earnings per share after tax	11.1p	8.6p	20.1p
Dividends per share	2.7p	2.0p	5.0p

**Mrs J. M. Tyrrell, Chairman, comments:**

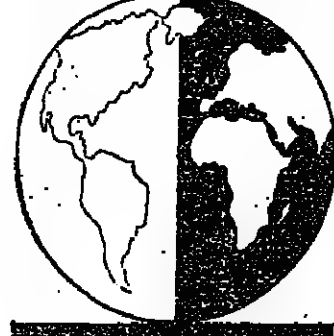
The profit for the 25 weeks to the 9th January 1981 is very encouraging and much in line with our forecast and expectations. Providing trade continues at its present level we expect that the second half of the year will be at least as good as the first.

Hand knitting continues to fare better than textiles generally, although overall the market is somewhat reduced. We have however again managed to increase our market share resulting in an increase in volume as well as turnover.

Your directors have declared a net interim dividend of 2.7p per share on the ordinary shares (1980: 2p per share) payable on the 19th May 1981 to all ordinary shareholders on the register of members at the close of business on 24th April 1981.

Sirdar Limited, Akerthorpe, Wakefield, WF2 9ND





New NEB subsidiary to provide 'grass roots' loans up to £50,000

## Aid for high technology 'little men'

Formation of a new subsidiary company aimed at stimulating the expansion of small businesses, particularly in high technology, was announced yesterday by the National Enterprise Board.

The new company, Oakwood Loan Finance, has been established in line with the Government's revised guidelines for the NEB, which require it to become a catalyst for investment in small companies. Oakwood will provide five-year loans of up to £50,000.

Announcing the establishment of the new company—which opens up another avenue of finance for smaller companies whose growth the Government is dedicated to promoting—Sir Frederick Wood, chairman of the NEB, said that it aimed to nourish the grass roots of business.

Against the background of the loan guarantee scheme for small businesses to be operated by the clearing banks and announced in the Budget earlier this month, Sir Frederick said: "Over a quarter of a million of Britain's gross national product is attributable to smaller businesses and self-employed people. They represent one of our driving forces in identifying new technology and innovation in general. Every large business began as a small enterprise based on individual initiative."

The NEB's new subsidiary will have an initial tranche of £1m to allocate to deserving businesses which have clear potential. Over the past few months while the scheme has been formulated, a number of potential applicants have already indicated their interest, although the executives will be responsible for decisions on loan allocations. It will make clear that most companies will be expected to have sounded out other sources of finance.

Most of the loans to be made by Oakwood are expected to be between £20,000 and £40,000, and the NEB believes that its scheme will fill a gap in the rapidly growing market of loan facilities for the small company.

The NEB team is promising speedy processing of applications (between 10 to 14 days) and companies taking up loans, which will carry an interest rate 2 per cent above the bank's base rate, will be able to spread the repayment "holiday" which is seen by its promoters as enabling com-



Sir Frederick Wood: opening another avenue of finance for smaller companies.

panies to concentrate on profitable growth in the early years.

A feature of the scheme will be that, in parallel with the granting of loans, Oakwood would seek to purchase warrants from small businesses, granted a loan facility. A warrant would allow Oakwood to subscribe for a maximum of 20 per cent of the equity capital in company between the end of the fifth and seventh years.

This facility would offer small companies the option of equity funding by the NEB through Oakwood, as a further stage in their development. But companies will be able to "buy out" the exercise of the warrant by Oakwood by making a payment to the NEB subsidiary. The "buy-out" payment will normally be up to a maximum of 20 per cent of a multiple of two or three times the average profits of the company in its fourth and fifth years.

The company said that loans would be available to new ventures and to established companies considered to have high growth potential, although Oakwood would also be prepared to provide loans as part of an overall financing package put together for a small company.

The establishing of the new loan company comes after the formation last year by the NEB of Anglo-American Venture Capital for high technology businesses in the assisted areas. Another company, Grosvenor Development Capital, provides specialist help for a group of the NEB's smaller investments. At present the board is processing about 50 applications for loans made to Anglo-American Venture Capital.

Peter Hill

## Advanced passenger train support

From Mr Anthony Smallhorn  
Sir, Anyone interested in the industrial future of this country must again view Michael Bailey's article "Rough ride for the tilting train" (March 17) with abject horror.

When, oh when, will we learn that projects such as the advanced passenger train are not "seeds" of future generations of engineering? Government does not learn, so probably we need a revolution.

More than five years ago I wrote, "Historically APT cannot be measured as a development expenditure plus £26m for three prototypes plus £60m for production units. It must be measured as the first example of a nationalized industry of developing and producing a successful world beater, which increases any industrial understanding to a degree far more valuable than the actual cost."

This is still true. British Rail must be allowed to be competitive in the late 1980s and 1990s. Problems are solved by engineering input but this costs money. Countries are bankrupt by politicians and muddled thinking.

Doubts about passenger expense will be completely assuaged if speeds higher than 125 mph are allowed. After all, nobody complains when an aircraft

banks. The trouble is that part of the narrow-mindedness of strategic planning has meant that BR have not allowed for any track realignment so APTs advantage over the high speed train has been wasted away and both seem destined to cruise at 125 mph.

Half-an-hour saved between London and Glasgow means no time saving at all on shorter, straighter lines. APT can either be run faster for the same money as HST or at the same speed and save money as it is more aerodynamic and lighter. The whole argument is rather as though Concorde had been designed with a take-off and landing speed which made it impossible to use any British airport. Would we then have spent the money to improve our airports?

No other industrial nation is so lacking in the understanding of its destiny and of the value of prestige projects. We still fail to measure value on a spiritual basis. In Japan the Ministry of International Trade and Industry has a specific remit to go into the highways and byways of the world of technology and purchase ideas which will be of value to the changing industrial status of the country. Every day company results and government cutbacks indicate that industries, both private and nation-

alized, are being slowed to a crawl. In the case many development programmes will have stopped or are being curtailed. Frustrated engineers, their ideas and projects will be easy picking for Miti or any other clear thinking nation. Just as they were for Boeing after the cancellation of TSR-2.

When will we ever learn? APT must succeed. More money must be found to make sure that the development succeeds. Conventionally engineered fast trains will not interest overseas markets. Lack of understanding of the total potential of this and other projects has meant that development times have become ridiculously protracted. With the likelihood of £1,000m being spent on track electrification APT will be suited for more lines at higher speeds. It is then a more competitive.

Without projects like these Great Britain has no long-term industrial future and no interest in the development of new technology.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY SMALLHORN,  
Hertfordshire SGS 4NR,  
March 17.

## Business names registry

From the Director of the National Consumer Council  
Sir, The amendment to the Companies (No 2) Bill which was carried in the House of Lords last week indicates the strength and breadth of feeling that it would be misguided to abolish the Registry of Business Names.

Consumers, creditors, businesses and journalists all, for differing reasons, share the need to be guaranteed access to adequate information about the true identity of traders. Anyone who misleads up in a public as a trader should say who he is.

The trucks, named Cargo, will replace the company's D-Series vehicles which last year captured 27 per cent of the up to 28-tonne gross weight sector of the United Kingdom heavy vehicle market.

Cargo will cover the 6-to-28.5-tonne market and basic models include truck, tipper and articulated vehicles. The range will be produced at Ford's Langley plant near Slough at the rate of 200 a day. It is expected that 50 per cent of the output will be exported.

The trucks represent a big challenge for Ford to European manufacturers. Including Leyland Vehicles which is attempting to increase its market share with its T45 series.

Ford says its new truck is cheaper to run, serving time and noise levels are claimed to have been reduced by 50 per cent. The cabs have low aerodynamic drag, and safety and comfort have been improved. The Cargo trucks would be priced at less than five per cent above the D-Series models.

Ford's total European output of commercial vehicles last year was 206,366 of which 138,373 (67 per cent) were manufactured in Britain.

The company makes trucks at Langley, Transit vans at Southampton and Escort vans at Halewood, Merseyside. Last year, 60 per cent of D-Series trucks and 35 per cent of Ford's total United Kingdom commercial vehicle output was exported.

The company said that apart from supplying Cargo trucks in kit form to a factory in Portugal it would not be possible to manufacture the trucks because of low cost countries because of infrastructure problems.

From Mr G. J. Caplen  
Sir, BBC television is at present showing a series on nineteenth century engineers. These men are still revered by the public, which makes it very odd that the same public regards today's engineers as men with oily rags who are always on strike.

Granted that the term "engineer" does lead one to think of a man working with a wrench, (I have for many years advocated substituting the name "applied scientist"), but this cannot be the reason for the difference as the nineteenth century men were also known as engineers. Telford even had the word inscribed on his bridges.

It is my belief that the different attitude stems from the anonymity of the work done by today's engineers. Telford has his name on his bridges. If there is anything at all on the Severn Bridge it will almost certainly be the name of the company. Of course the modern

All sides agree that the present arrangements are unsatisfactory. The solution is not to be found by sweeping these away altogether. I hope that the Government will accept the amendment which will be carried by the House of Lords and make legislative provision for a reformed registry established on a basis that is appropriate for the modern world.

Yours faithfully,  
JEREMY MITCHELL,  
Director,  
National Consumer Council,  
18 Queen Anne's Gate,  
London SW1H 9AA.

## ICL loan guarantee

From Mr D. B. James  
Sir, What is happening to the Conservative Party, has its policy towards ICL been undermined one of its now infamous "U-turns"?

Can Sir Keith Joseph really expect us in the industry to believe that the £200m loan guarantee to ICL will not be needed?

The City's best predictions are that ICL will need £150m by its year end in September and will make a "conservative" margin of £60m on its system. Does he really think that we are so naive as to believe that if the Government's existing investment in ICL equipment needs protecting in the tune of £200m, that when we if the PAYE system is installed, the Government can under any circumstance afford to let the company fail.

D. B. JAMES,  
Broadwood,  
Bulth Wells,  
Powys LD2 3UL.

## Present day engineers

From Mr G. J. Caplen  
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tendency to specialise has made it difficult to say that any one person has designed the whole of a large project but I would have thought that the same thing applied to architecture and most people know that Sir Basil Spence designed Coventry cathedral.

Another difficulty is that engineering is now so complex that even if the public knew, for instance, that I designed a first arc furnace transformer to have on load tap changing and to operate from 66,000 volts, it would mean nothing to most of them. Yet the same applies to scientists and they are at least respected, even if not as highly as solicitors and accountants.

Could the BBC be persuaded to do a similar series on modern engineers?

Yours faithfully,  
G. J. CAPLEN,  
8 Acon Close,  
Stafford ST16 3XB,  
March 15.

## Curbs on British Telecom

From Professor K. W. Cattermole  
Sir, One of the most damaging and least explicable features of the Government's economic policy is the failure to distinguish between the public sector's current expenditure and productive investment. Financial needs for both are lumped into an arbitrarily constituted PSBR (public sector borrowing requirement), with the result that a joint constraint aimed primarily at current outgoings actually hinders useful developments, with ill effects all round. Nothing is more clearly illustrated than in telecommunications.

Telecommunications is both a public utility and a manufacturing sector of prime importance to the economy. It has excellent prospects of continuing the volume growth and technological development which it has long exhibited. The nationalized utility, British Telecom, is among the few leading administrations, whether judged by size or by technical competence, which are manufacturing and research institutions for their technical skills. One of the most heartening sights, to a British citizen all too aware of our beleaguered economy, was the British presence at the last major international telecommunications exhibition (at Geneva in September, 1979), where the United Kingdom pavilion

bodies. Here, surely, is a potential winner if only we back it strongly enough.

It seems quite irrational that a profitable utility, growing at some 10 per cent per annum and simultaneously engaged in technological updating and service innovations, should have its borrowing powers restricted to one half per cent of assets. Yet such was the case for BT last year. This year's limit, though higher, is still only a small fraction of the necessary, let alone the desirable, investment.

The average telephone user probably does not realize that BT's productivity has improved consistently for many years. He has heard of, even if not suffered from, delays in provision. He knows that charges have recently risen. He may not be aware that the first deficiency is mainly due to under-investment and the second to the financing of nearly all capital expenditure from current revenues.

Let me explain briefly the case for further borrowing for investment in BT:

(a) improvements in telecommunications services benefit the whole community and especially its commercial sector; (b) most of the money spent will provide work for British capital-goods industry; (c) expansion of the home market base will strengthen British exports by keeping up momentum in technical development, by reducing unit costs and by providing a work-in-showcase for British products; (d) such a programme

imposes no loss on public funds, but on the contrary would be an attractive investment with a good financial return.

It is well known that the Government intends to reduce the areas of BT monopoly and to open the supply of telecommunications services to private enterprise; and it might be thought that this is an alternative way of bringing finance to telecommunications. However, this is not so. Such new enterprise, however successful, can supply only a small fraction of the public's need for telecommunications; moreover, most of them would be dependent in some way on the existence, and efficient operation, of the BT network. Thus there is no substitute for direct investment in the main public network.

Finally, it should be said that our industrial competitors overseas do not subject themselves to such artificial shackles. The United States and Sweden, France and Japan all differ from the United Kingdom and from each other in the degree of government dirigisme. But they all succeed in adequately financing telecommunications both as a public utility and as a manufacturing industry. We can, and should, do likewise.

Yours faithfully,  
K. W. CATERMOLE,  
Professor of Telecommunications, Department of Electrical Engineering Science, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester CO4 3SQ.

## UK pledge to Portugal on textile imports

By Derek Harris  
Commercial Editor

Despite the problems in its own textile industry, there will be no change in Britain's policy on low-cost textiles from Portugal until that country is "fully established" within the European Economic Community.

This undertaking was given in Oporto yesterday by Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade.

With Britain's textile and clothing industry losing 100,000 jobs last year, the Government has been under intense pressure to cut imports, Mr Biffen said. But it was in everybody's interests that present understandings on Portuguese exports continued for the time being, he added.

There is a voluntary restraint agreement on Portugal's exports of textiles and clothing to the United Kingdom that sets upper volume limits, but in shirts alone Portugal accounts for a third of the British market, with annual imports of well over 20 million.

About half of Portugal's total exports of all goods to Europe find their way to Britain, Portugal's oldest trading partner.

The voluntary restraint agreement runs out in January, but Britain expects to renew this to cover the period until Portugal joins the EEC, probably in 1983. The transition period, during which present trade levels with Britain would be expected to continue, could last at least a year, and probably considerably longer.

Little comfort: But Mr Biffen's remarks will be of little comfort to the United Kingdom's man-made fibre industry which has been forced to cut back extensively over the past few months as a result of the recession, continued inroads being made by imports and rising energy costs (Peter Hill writes).

The industry's sector working party, which operates under the National Economic Development Office, has warned Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Industry, that output is expected to fall by nearly 40,000 tonnes in the next two years from last year's 433,000 tonnes, with further job losses the inevitable consequence.

In talks with Mr Baker, the working party complained about the effect of the high sterling exchange rate, high costs, especially of energy, the volume of American imports; and the need for a stable domestic market.

NEDO is to undertake a detailed investigation of the key elements in the cost structure of the British fibres industry compared with its competitors.

## FBI inquiry into loan for Australian airline

Washington, March 25—The FBI is investigating the United States Export-Import bank's low-interest, \$290m (£125m) loan to an Australian airline, controlled by Mr Rupert Murdoch, for possible misuse of public money.

The inquiry, launched at the request of the Justice Department's public integrity section, is to determine whether the unusually low interest loan was politically motivated, granted in return for a political favour, or commercially justified.

According to sources who have been interviewed by the FBI, the investigation began last September, more than six months after the bank gave preliminary approval to the controversial loan enabling Mr Murdoch's Ansett Transport Industries to buy 18 Boeing 767s, including five wide-body 767s, at an average 8.1 per cent interest rate.

Former President Jimmy Carter, Mr Murdoch, and Mr John Moore, president of the Ex-Im bank, have all denied any connection between the loan and the endorsement of Mr Carter during the New York Presidential campaign by The New York Post, which is owned by Mr Murdoch. They have argued that the favourable financing terms were necessary to keep Ansett from buying wide-body jets from a European manufacturer.

The loan, now before Congress for review, is to be granted finally by the bank next week if Congress does not intervene in the meantime.

The loan drew strong Congressional criticism within days of the bank approving it to only half the time the bank normally takes to clear loan applications and at terms more favourable than those on loans granted previously for similar deals. The loan was announced on February 28, 1980, just six days after the New York Post endorsed former President Carter.

Critics point out that the endorsement came only three days after Mr Murdoch had a private lunch with Mr Carter at the White House—a lunch that took place the same day Mr Murdoch met with bank officials and personally handled Ansett's loan application to Mr Moore, a Carter appointee who was a strong supporter of the former President during the 1976 campaign.

The FBI has interviewed Treasury aides and the European aircraft manufacturer which was competing with Boeing to sell wide-body jets to Ansett.

In addition to the FBI inquiry the General Accounting Office, the "watchdog" of Congress, is also investigating the loan to see if part of it is going for rebates to the airline for buying United States aircraft. The charge, made in two anonymous phone calls to Congressional aides, has been denied by bank officials, who say Ansett has signed a certificate which guarantees that none of the loan money is being used for cash kickbacks—Washington Star News Service.

## Aircraft loss 'record'

By Arthur Reed  
Air Correspondent  
Insurance could last year record claims for aircraft lost last year. Mr Jack Webb, retiring chairman of the Aviation Insurance Association, said in his annual report which was presented in London yesterday.

Twenty-two aircraft built in the West and insured for a total of \$200m (£87m) were lost last year, the highest number since 1973.

Passenger deaths on western-built aircraft totalled 745, compared with 879 in 1979. Crew fatalities were 92 compared with 70 the year before.

Two wide-bodied aircraft accounted for half this sum which could raise a record for civil aviation hull losses when the insured value is included of four airliners built in the Eastern block and insured on the world market.

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## Redundancy level remains high

By David Hewson  
At least 45,000 people were made redundant last month, bringing the total out of work during the last seven months to 143,800.

The latest provisional figures show that the number of redundancies is not increasing over recent months and may have fallen slightly, but it is still well above last year.

According to estimates of the Manpower Services Commission, 90,000 redundancies occurred during the first two months of this year compared with 55,100 during the same period of 1980.

The principal areas affected last month were metal manufacturing, mechanical engineering and electrical engineering, which accounted for 35 per cent of the total.

There are no signs that the continuing problems of industry are abating.

The number of jobs supported by short-time working compensation scheme, which encourages companies to move onto short-time rather than make employees redundant, rose dramatically last month to 962,000 from 680,000 in January. Last December, the scheme had supported 595,000 jobs.

The support given by the scheme is limited to nine months, and once it runs out the jobs which it had maintained become vulnerable to redundancy.

The largest single group of redundancies announced last month involved British Shipbuilders, where 2,600 employees face losing their jobs. A further 1,200 redundancies were announced by Birmingham City Council, and 800 at the BL plant at Cowley.

Source: The Times, The Sunday Times, The Financial Times, Feb 26-March 24

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## Soviet block debts to West total \$67,000m

Soviet block nations owed Western countries \$67,000m (£29,130m) last year, up from \$50,000m in 1979. But Western banks remained lightly exposed, according to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

The increased borrowings were used mainly to finance Eastern European current account deficits and to build up foreign currency reserves.

Most of the debt was in the form of official credits granted by Western nations, with the largest lenders being West Germany, France and Italy. Most of these credits were aimed at promoting mutual exports.

However, rising world prices of oil and gas last year gave the Soviet Union what is probably its first trade surplus with the West and Japan, western trade experts said.

Italian banks have decided to raise their prime rate to 22.5 per cent, after the Bank of Italy raised its discount rate to 19 per cent. Advances for export financing will now be made at 30.5 per cent and lending to ordinary clients is expected to be in the region of 24 to 26 per cent, or in some cases up to 28 per cent.

Japan "discrimination"  
Sir Y. K. Kan, chairman of the semi-official Hongkong Trades Development Council, alleged yesterday that Japan's exclusion of some Hongkong products from the Japanese Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP) was a "discriminatory" measure.

Certain Hongkong goods for Japan are exempted from import duty because Hongkong is considered a developing territory.

Sweden-Norway pact  
Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtand, Prime Minister of Norway, and Mr Torbjorn Faldrin, Prime Minister of Sweden, have signed a 20-year economic cooperation agreement between their two countries. The agreement involves the establishment of a joint fund to help to provide favourable loans for future joint industrial projects.

Indonesia oil find  
Conoco has discovered a substantial oil deposit in Irian Jaya, Indonesia and test drilling has yielded 6,000 barrels of crude a day, the Pertamina State Oil company has announced. Conoco is working on a production sharing agreement with Pertamina and further drillings will be made.

EEC trade deficit  
The European Economic Community's trade deficit with the United States doubled last year to \$25,000m (£10,800m). Commission sources blamed the deficit, twice as big as the deficit with Japan, on poor EEC industrial performance and rising imports of manufactured goods.

US investment up  
Overseas subsidiaries of American companies are planning investments of \$53,000m (£23,000m) this year, 13 per cent more than in 1980, Commerce Department said in Washington. The 1981 investments will reach \$20,000m in the EEC.

Fuel price rise  
France is to raise the price of petrol, diesel and household heating fuel by five centimes (lire) to 1,956 francs (17p) from tomorrow. The price for a litre of super grade petrol goes up to 3.77 francs.

Dubai oil contract  
Toyo Menka Kaisha has signed a contract to import one million barrels of crude oil from Dubai for shipment to April.

## NatWest Investment Accounts

NatWest announces that with effect from Wednesday April 1st, 1981 the rate applied to

THREE MONTH NOTICE INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS

will be reduced from 13½% to 11½% per annum.

SIX MONTH NOTICE INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS

will be reduced from 14% to 12% per annum.

National Westminster Bank Limited

National Westminster Bank Limited

National Westminster Bank Limited

National Westminster Bank Limited



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Prudential out of balance

Mounting underwriting losses are commonplace in insurance these days and Prudential and Eagle Star duly produced two huge ones yesterday. What is usual, however, is that these losses are more than covered by growing investment income. In the case of Prudential they are not, which explains a 6½ per cent fall to £42.5m in net profits, albeit there is the consolation of a 15½ per cent increase in the gross dividend to 15.7p a share.

What happened is not entirely clear. Broadly, though, while the Prudential's life business moved majestically ahead during 1980 (premium income topped the £1,000m mark for the first time and profits from life operations increased by 22 per cent), real difficulties were being encountered in its general insurance activities.

Underwriting losses more than doubled to £33.9m. In no area or territory did the Prudential avoid losses and, to add to its discomfort, Mercantile and General Reinsurance, operating in a volatile business at

yield much below 2 per cent is debatable. Additionally, there is, of course, the fatalist approach. This says that real returns from conventional investments can no longer be looked upon even as probable. So anything that guarantees simply to maintain the real purchasing power of the investment should be grabbed whether or not it offers an additional yield. My only comment on that would be that if we are sinking into a world of nil real returns over the long term, then one might reasonably doubt that the new stock itself will be redeemed in 1996.

The irony with this stock is that the tender takes place a week after the publication of figures showing a sharp upturn in the six monthly rate of inflation. One of the reasons, apparently, for holding back an index-linked issue last year was that the government wished to issue such a stock only when inflation was on the way down: it did not wish to lay itself open to the accusation that it was behaving irresponsibly.

As it is, potential tenderers are now bound to consider how much any deterioration in inflationary expectations is likely to influence the price of the stock over the coming months. Theoretically, the stock could respond violently to any change in inflationary expectations that in turn affected the perception of an acceptable rate of real return. What potential investors might ask themselves, however, is how much in practice the stock would have moved last Friday on the announcement of a rather disappointing RPI.

Berisford/British Sugar

### Conditional go-ahead

It would have been easier for S. & W. Berisford if the Monopolies Commission had ruled clearly against its bid for British Sugar. For Berisford is now faced with several possibilities: it can press ahead with the bid, sell its stake, or less likely, do nothing. The decision will be governed by two considerations, the price and the Commission's conditions.

The conditions are far from insurmountable. Indeed, Berisford has already told the Commission in evidence that it would accept them, which puts the report's insistence on them in an interesting light and which makes it hard for Berisford not to proceed on these grounds. The only reservation is what exactly the Commission and the government understand by running BSC as a separate company. It is not Berisford's style to leave its subsidiaries to go their own way.

Price, however, will be the crux. If BSC's profits this year are £44m, and Berisford improves its bid by about 50 per cent to 330p a share, the exit p/e for BSC shareholders is 9.4, which is not wildly attractive. BSC is probably worth about 400p a share, and at almost 290p last night it is yielding some 5 per cent. Berisford is about 112p, which is equivalent to 168p after adjusting for the capitalization issue, and yields nearer 6 per cent.

At 330p a share Berisford would be paying about £200m for BSC. It is quite possible that BSC's shares will run up to this level, and there was heavy trading last night as speculators hoped for a Berisford bid. Obviously, Berisford could keep the market guessing, take profits, and look elsewhere. But it is more likely that with BSC profits of £52m in sight next year Berisford will pitch in at 330p to 350p a share, hoping that it can thereby lure out the Government's 24 per cent holding.

Indexed stock

### Time to make a decision

Pension fund managers who have not already done so will have to make up their minds today at what level to pitch tenders for the index-linked Treasury stock that goes on offer tomorrow. Actuarial advice that has been flying around over the past few days suggests that bids ought to be pitched between 78 and 88, to produce a real rate of return of 3-4 per cent. However, to find an actuary who believes that this is what will happen in practice is an entirely different matter.

So what are the arguments to justify bids at par or substantially above? The first, and in my opinion a foolish one, is that of "scarcity value". All the signs are that this will not prove a unique stock.

The more fundamental argument for bidding up the price is that a portfolio can stand an element of potentially sub-standard return in exchange for the "certainty" of (real) return offered by the new stock. This is a reasonable argument, though whether the low risk premium should push the

Slough Estates is too solid to spring surprises and yesterday's news of 1980 profits up by 13 per cent to £11.4m and the dividend 20 per cent higher left the shares up 15p to 151p, close to the 1980-81 peak. Rental income rose by 24 per cent to £19m in Britain though by only 6 per cent to £5.73m abroad, but pretax profits lagged because the cost of carrying land jumped from only £241,000 to £1.52m. Interest rates obviously took their toll at a time when development was slowing down to ensure, as the trading bulletin delicately put it, "a reasonable balance between supply and demand". However, too much should not be made of this since Slough still has plenty of industrial space and adding 350,000 sq ft or so a year. There has been no increase in the vacancy rate in the United Kingdom and, apart from some five-year reviews, the group has most of its United Kingdom industrial property rent reviewed every year. Profits should double or more in five years; rise to £13.5m this year and in general dividends should continue to rise strongly as interest rates fall.

## Economic notebook

### A cautionary tale

On May 1, 1930, when the United States was showing signs of recovery from the financial and economic crisis that had hit it the previous year, President Herbert Hoover publicly declared: "I am convinced that we have passed the worst." This was on the eve of the first American banking crisis which ushered in the Great Depression.

It is a cautionary tale for those of a sanguine disposition who are today boldly predicting that the recession in Britain has bottomed out.

The reasons why some recessions are quickly reversed and others deepen into depression like that of 1929-33 in the United States, are not clearly understood. Certainly, there is little hard evidence yet that the British economy has temporarily stopped contracting, much less that we have reached the trough of the cycle or that recovery will be experienced some time soon.

The optimism recently expressed by some Treasury economists, that the trough may have been reached, is based largely on what are known as the "cyclical indicators". These are four blocks of indicators, grouped according to whether their fluctuations precede changes in the economic cycle or whether they coincide with it, or lag behind it.

The leading group of indicators is subdivided into "longer leading" and "shorter leading" indicators. The composite index of "longer leading" indicators (comprising short-term interest rates, corporate financial assets, housing starts, share prices and Confederation of British Industry surveys of business optimism) has now been rising for some 15 months. In the past, the index has on average preceded an upturn in economic activity by about 15 months. This suggests that an upturn should occur about now.

However, the index has on occasion started to rise as much as 21 months before the economy has begun to recover. If this were to happen again, the recovery would not come before the late summer.

At the same time the index of "coincident indicators" (income, expenditure, output, retail capacity use and changes in stocks of materials) is actually suggesting that the bottom of the recession was reached towards the end of last year. But it is clear that this index has been distorted by the unusually high level of retail business caused by the prolonged new year "sales" in the high street.

Moreover, two of the component indicators in this group have not been included for several months and their inclusion could lead to substantial revisions to the coincident index.

It all seems a flimsy basis on which to make firm predictions, and, of course, use of these indicators takes account of the Budget measures. These, in spite of protestations to the contrary by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, must have a constitutional effect on the economy.

It remains the view of Mr

Lawson and his Treasury colleagues, that the recovery will be seen in the second half of this year. Precisely how this will come about, when living standards and company investment will be falling and exports are desperately uncompetitive, remains unclear.

In a speech this week Mr Lawson suggested that the recovery could come from a slowdown in the rate of de-stocking by companies, a fall in the level of savings as inflation drops and an upturn in the world economy.

It does seem quite possible that there will be a slowdown in the rate of de-stocking, which during 1980 was unprecedented. But if the recovery rests on this alone, it could easily prove a false dawn.

Also whether individuals will be prepared to dig into their savings to support their living standards can only be a matter of guesswork. We have no past experience of the way people behave when there are three million jobless.

Certainly, we cannot expect a recovery in world trade to rescue us, unless it is strong and sustained. British goods are now very uncompetitive in overseas markets and all the evidence suggests that in such circumstances our share of world trade in manufactures will fall in volume and that this will continue for several years.

We could, therefore, yet see a situation in which one of the few elements of demand in the economy to show an increase will be public expenditure—prosperity that cannot be very appealing to the Government.

The reason why Mr Lawson believes that a boost to the economy may come from somewhere is that the "real money supply" will be growing. That is to say, the rate of inflation will drop below the Government's target growth for the money supply.

At the same time, the rate of inflation will drop below the Government's target growth for the money supply. That is to say, the rate of inflation will drop below the Government's target growth for the money supply.

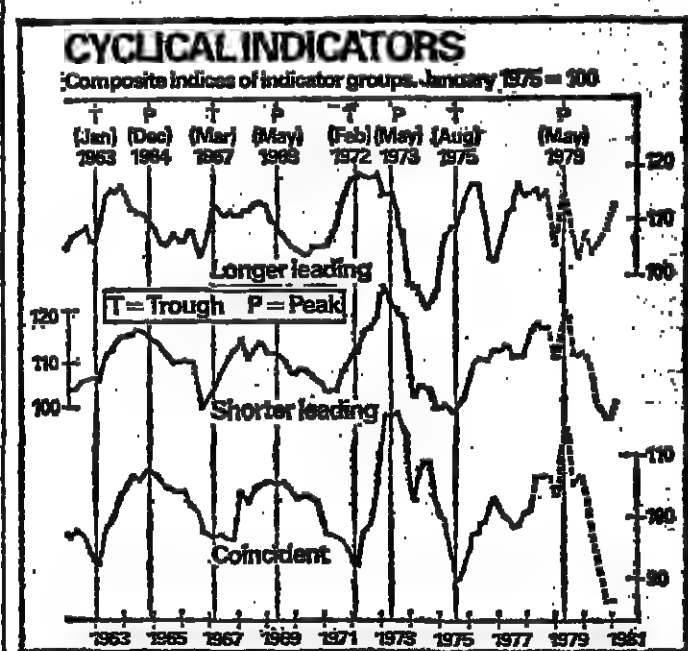
The Government has a 5 per cent target for the rate of inflation. This is a target for the rate of inflation, not for the rate of growth of the money supply.

Such calculations represent a monetarist "fine tuning" of a high order.

If inflation proves to be a couple of points higher than the target, the money supply will presumably disappear like the morning mist. On the other hand, if the monetary target were raised by, say, 4 per cent, we could perhaps ensure real growth of 6 per cent.

Is there any limit to this wonderful process? Perhaps the Government has at last found the formula for growth in our time.

Melvyn Westlake



## Industrial action and politics—where is the dividing line?

The controversy involving members of the National and Local Government Officers' Association (Nalgo) over the "blacklisting" of work related to council house sales highlights some of the most crucial issues which confront the Government in its review of trade union law reform. In particular, this action re-focuses the inadequacy of the present law to curtail industrial action taken to promote political purposes and it also raises apprehensions about the disruption of the closed shop in the public sector.

Events in the London boroughs of Camden and Lambeth illustrate the position. The councils are Labour-controlled and the Nalgo is a trade union. In particular, this action re-focuses the inadequacy of the present law to curtail industrial action taken to promote political purposes and it also raises apprehensions about the disruption of the closed shop in the public sector.

Officially, the reason given by the union branches for the blacklisting is the refusal by the management of its demand for extra staff to be taken on to handle the council house sales. It is difficult to believe, however, that the action is motivated by some extent by political considerations; yet, by adopting or annexing the vocabulary of a staffing dispute, the union thereby cloaks itself with the immunity from legal action available to individuals who act "in contemplation of furtherance of a trade dispute".

The meaning of this much-quoted formula has been the subject of a series of celebrated cases in the last two years. One of these arose out of the blacklisting of a ship called the *Nawale*, where the lawfulness of political strikes was directly in issue. The House of Lords eventually decided that, provided a dispute was to some extent connected with legitimate employment matters, then it was immaterial that it was also partly or even predominantly motivated by political or extraneous reasons.

This decision overturned an early decision of Lord Denning in the Court of Appeal that in

industrial action taken for a predominantly political purpose was not in furtherance of a trade dispute and therefore did not attract the statutory immunity.

Although the present law still gives no protection to strikes taken for a purely political purpose, it is very easy for a union (whether acting in good faith or not) to dress up a political dispute in the guise of a trade dispute. The result is that in practice a union which goes about its business in the right way has virtually a free hand in promoting industrial action for a political purpose, the only exception being if the attendant trade dispute is an obvious sham.

In practice, a union has a virtually a free hand in promoting industrial action for a political purpose.

pute and decide which of them was predominant. This difficulty notwithstanding, there is much support for a change in the law restricting protection only to those disputes connected "wholly or mainly" with employment matters.

A second cause for concern is the ability of a union branch to promote political blacklisting or strikes by means of the closed shop, such as exists in Camden but not in Lambeth. A particular feature of closed shops in the public sector is that in the past they have usually been introduced by means of a formally negotiated agreement between the unions and the employing authority. This may happen over the heads and against the wishes of some of the employees concerned. It is significant that almost all the well-known cases in which people have lost their jobs as a result of closed shop agreements have been in the public sector.

The danger of closed shops in the public sector is that they allow for an unhealthy alliance

between politically elected employers and union branches which are becoming increasingly politicized. Traditionally, the maintenance of an independent bureaucracy has been regarded as an essential component of the system of checks and balances which underpins our constitutional freedom. Last year's Employment Act notwithstanding, the closed shop largely allows the union to override the conscientious objection of individuals to taking part in politically motivated industrial action.

If the tradition of an independent bureaucracy is to be maintained, there is a strong case for making the closed shop altogether unlawful where the employer is a politically elected body.

A third and final aspect of the matter relates to the shortcomings of the special provisions in last year's Employment Act putting a limit on the immunity for industrial action. These measures are confined to the disruption of commercial contracts existing between businesses and therefore have little effect on public bodies such as local authorities, which are not primarily trading concerns. Their relationship with the public does not depend upon business contracts but upon a series of statutory duties imposed by Parliament.

Thanks to yet other decisions of Lord Denning in the Court of Appeal, there appears to be no support for a limit on all for individuals who use unlawful means to procure a breach of statutory duty. By contrast, there is still a very wide immunity for causing breaches of contracts in furtherance of trade disputes.

This incipient distinction between the public and private sectors in defining the limits on how far industrial action is lawful may well be a signpost for the future. As far as it may, the present Court of Appeal decision would have the effect of making almost any form of industrial action in the public sector unlawful, which is a wholly unrealistic position for the courts to maintain. For this reason alone, the Government may be obliged to review the position in its current round of talks on the Green Paper on trade union immunities and to clarify the position by statute.

Brian Capstick

## Spotted dog specialist wanted

Ivor Davis

Los Angeles. True Brit, a lively tabloid monthly, which caters to the 350,000 Britons who now call southern California home, recently carried a story which asked: "Are you looking for a green card?"

The green card is the much sought-after permanent resident's visa which enables foreigners to live and work in America with no restrictions.

The answer, then, suggested that Britons intent on staying here should brush up on their bubble and squeak, tripe and onions and spotted dog. The United States Labor Department, the publication of a series of celebratory "give your permits to aliens from any part of the world who are of ethnic food cooks". The United States Immigration and Naturalization Service has not yet been inundated with applications from the cream of Britain's culinary world. But in the last few months there has been a remarkable increase in the number of skilled Britons in a variety of other specialties who have set their sights on America and particularly on a place in the southern California sun.

"Brain drains" have always had their ebbs and flows, says Mr Richard Fraade, a Beverly Hills lawyer who specializes in immigration and consular matters. He says that America has rewritten the immortal words on the Statue of Liberty:

"No longer do they want the poor, tired and huddled masses... Instead, it's the

of the Los Angeles-headhunting firm Commercial Programming Services, makes frequent trips to London to recruit skilled workers. Recently, he said one California business which needed half a dozen data processors. "They couldn't find them in the United States so they sent me to England. I saw 40 candidates and hired six of them."

After a year they are supposed to go home but in many cases they want to stay and that is where we call in an immigration lawyer to get them their green cards.

Companies like Cybernet Corporation of Culver City have attracted thousands of immigrants, from £25,000 to £35,000 (£18,870 to £15,200) a year.

"California is very attractive to these people," Mr Strong says.

Mr Fraade says that there is still a big demand for skilled British workers in "silicon valley" (the heart of California's electronic industry) and with unemployment running so high in Britain, there is a large pool of assemblers, tool and die makers, welders, carpenters and pipe fitters to draw on.

As a result, the practice of immigration law and associated fields like tax and investment guidance has become one of the fastest growing specialties in the country.

Mr Al Strong, president

## Business Diary: I thee wed (subject to contract)

Now thrive not only the mug makers but lordly auctioneers and leftie badge mongers...

The approaching nuptials of Prince Charles are being celebrated by Central Books, a London bookshop carrying a wide selection of books by V. I. Lenin, with a badge (below) in royal purple, admonishing "Don't do it, Di!". This will cost Carlrophobes 15p a time. For about £4,999.85 more, you may also be able to secure from Sotheby's on

tion for the marriage (they were cousins), marry Philippa within two years or cough up £10,000.

The money stayed in the family, for Edward and Philippa were married in time when he was 16 and she 14. She proved to be a devoted wife, he a wandering husband.

We owe the survival of the contract to a Philippa—not a member of Prince Charles's brother-in-law's family, but to the nineteenth century collector Sir Thomas Phillips.

The Sotheby's sale, which is likely to be handled by Lord John Kerr, head of the books department, is of manuscripts now owned by the family trust of the book dealers Philip and Lionel Robinson.

Lord John told me yesterday that the contract is in the catalogue as expected to fetch between £3,000 and £5,000.

The catalogue was printed before the marriage was announced, he said. Prices as a rule aren't affected by extraneous things which happen at the same time.

It does not look as if 655 years from now Sotheby's will be knocking down a similar moment of the present Prince's union. Asked whether Lady Diana's family wanted a contract, a spokesman for Prince Charles said yesterday: "No, apparently not. Nothing like that at all."

Now busy trying to fend off Thos W. Ward, and at Rockaway Group, the glass people, Peacher, British Transport Docks and San Alian.

At Telephone Rentals Sir Charles will concentrate on the group's relations with the world outside the company. The engineering side will be left to a Telephone Rentals veteran, Bob Sly, who becomes chief executive.

Best wishes to oilman Algy Cliff on his acquisition of The Spectator—but also a niggle. The current issue of the venerable organ carries an article by Edward Norman, ecclesiastical historian and Dean of Peterhouse, Cambridge.

This is a witty review of a book on the modern penny by my colleague, Peter Nichols, which under the title "Misunderstanding Rome" says of our Rome correspondent: "His

judgment, in fact, rests upon some sadly familiar propaganda depictions."

Dr Norman's opening sentence, however, reads: "This book is the result of The Times strike," in that Nichols had a year's leisure in which to research his work.

But, Dr Norman, the year in question saw not a strike but a lock-out. No "propaganda depiction" is sadder or more familiar to journalists of The Times than this and, while I am reminding you of being governed by the all-informed, it grates when repeated by an academic in the course of marking down a colleague.

The Dean of Peterhouse may be excused such a lapse. His recreation, after all, is "watching television"—not perhaps the best window in the world; and there again, as a divine, it may be that his eyes are

fastened less on this world than on the next.

But not so those of the editor of The Spectator, Alexander Chancellor. During the lock-out he published pieces by Times journalists which he had collected, thus saving them from severe verbal chastisement.

Then, and later, Chancellor offered a running commentary on what he thought was happening at New Printing House Square, and, in the edition which carries Dr Norman's effusion there is an article on The Times by Paul Johnson, as well as another by Christopher Booker on The art of book reviewing.

With all these temporal sieges about, why was it not possible to keep the unworried Dr Norman from the path of error?

If there is any more of this sort of thing The Spectator, I shall call down upon the august Editor the Curse of Deities. This does not mean chastising the Spectator, for that I could never do.

It means writing for the thing. I did so for two magazines, Punch and Bookmen, both of which promptly folded. During the

the Pope's Dismissal: The Roman Catholic Church Today, by Peter Nichols, Faber and Faber, 51s.

Ross Davies

THAT EVERY PLANE THAT CRASHES...

HAS A CERTIFICATE OF AIRWORTHINESS ON TAKE-OFF...

THIS IS THE TIME WHEN I ALWAYS REFLECT...

Wallchart

THAT EVERY PLANE THAT CRASHES...

HAS A CERTIFICATE OF AIRWORTHINESS ON TAKE-OFF...

## Planet

### Percy Lane Group

Manufacturers of factory glazed aluminium windows for railway coaches, motor vehicles, the building industry and for caravans.

### Preliminary results for 1980

	Historic Cost	Current Cost
1980	1979	1980
£900	£900	£900
Turnover	19,606	17,431
Profit before tax	685	161
Earnings per share (net)	11.0p	3.8p
Dividend cover	3.7	1.0

- Final dividend of 2p per share (1979-1p) making 3p for 1979-1.75p
- Proposed capitalisation issue of 1 for 5
- 1981 - The Group has made a good start

Copies of the 1980 Report and Accounts will be available from the Secretary, Percy Lane Group Ltd., 83 Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 2AP after 16 April 1981.



## FINANCIAL NEWS

## Stock markets

## Insurances tumble after Prudential results

After Tuesday evening's strong advance the pace slowed in equities yesterday as light profit taking developed.

Prices in most major sectors receded and jobbers were busy mopping up stock which had been in short supply. Once again early morning trading was led by the overnight setback on Wall St where the Dow Jones slipped below the 1,000 level. Worries persisted over the deteriorating situation in Poland.

As a result the FT Index closed 4.3 lower at 507.4 having been 4.5 off at 3 pm.

Shortages of stock again provided building shares with further impetus while the higher bid price saw further activity in gold shares. But oils came in for a shake out following overnight selling of oil shares on Wall St.

The long list of trading statements kept dealers busy, especially in the insurance market where several disappointing results sent prices tumbling.

With conditions tight in the money market yesterday jobbers reported further persistent selling of Government securities. Institutions were still ready to take profits in order to raise cash for application of the new index-linked stock which starts today.

Prices in longs closed with falls of between 2 1/2 to 5 1/2, while the shorter end falls were kept to within 1 1/2 to 2 1/2.

Dunlop up 2p at 80p was the main feature in leading industries, following the exchange of 21.2m shares between Pirelli International and Goodfellow Plaza at around 80p. But dealers did not think a full-scale bid would take place.

Elsewhere, falls predominated, with ICI 2p lower at 236p. Bechtel up 1p at 174p, Glaxo 4p to 294p, Unilever 7p to 495p, Fisons 3p to 155p, BOC International up 2 1/2p to 121p and 146p respectively. Only Lucas Industries, reporting later today, bucked the trend by advancing 6p to 174p.

The profits shortfall at Prudential Corp saw jobbers mark the price sharply lower at 242p, after 239p, a net fall on the day of 17p. The full-year figures from Eagle Star were less than impressive and the shares fell 16p to 242p with Legal & General, reporting next week, 7p lower at 245p.

The falls might have been heavier but for the increased dividend.

In the meantime, the rest of the sector dipped in sympathy with falls in G&L 4p to 344p, Royal 5p to 378p and General Accident 6p to 332p.

In banks the major clearers seemed unconcerned by the escalating strike by clerical staff with Barclays adding 2p to 380p, Midland 8p to 318p, Lloyds 3p to 323p and National Westminster unchanged at 348p. Talk of better terms from Standard & Chartered, up 3p to 675p, saw Royal Bank of Scotland jump 10p to 140p. In merchant banks Berkeley Hambro advanced 8p to 250p along with Kleinwort Benson 8p to 272p both ahead of figures to date.

An 8m cash call to shareholders clipped 1p from County & New Town Properties at 64 1/2p while full-year figures

had Slough Estates 1p lower at 151p. Falls of 1p and 2p were also seen in MEPC at 241p, Land Securities at 417p, Gt Portland at 252p and Haslemere Estates at 412p.

Better than expected trading statements gave a fillip to Arthur Bell, 6p to 176p, Sirdar, 4p to 163p, Church & Co 7p to 165p, Percy Lane 5p to 39p, Metal Closures 12p to 111p and Rockware 5p to 65p.

Persistent buyers of Rothmans International have sent the shares to a new high of 55p, on any combination of three rumours: a property revolution, a deal with BAT, or one with Grand Metropolitan over Liggett's tobacco interests. Rothmans says: "We don't know why the shares are going up". For a market normally between 50,000 and 100,000 shares, buying orders have gone in at an average of 100,000 and higher. The shares closed last night at 54 1/2p.

But disappointing news hit Armstrong Equipment 2 1/2p to 42 1/2p, Bestobell 2p to 37 1/2p and

Garton Engineering 4p to a new low of 40p.

Still benefiting from recent trading statements, Highgate & Optical expanded 4p to 23p but Ricardo Engineering Consultants continued to fall 63p to 490p. Profit taking wiped 9p from Student & Pitt at 101p, 13p from United Newspapers at 190p and 8p from Watnongs at 195p.

Textiles had a firm session buoyed on by improved performance from A. Beckman up 3p to 40p and Wilkinson Warburton up 10p at 72p.

The Monopolies Commission's go-ahead for a full bid for British Sugar was greeted enthusiastically with British Sugar rising 2 1/2p to 286p while S & W Berisford closed 4p easier at 112p.

Trusthouse Forte drifted 1p to 213p but Savoy "A" still awaiting further developments was wanted 5p higher at 178p. F. Pratt climbed 4p to 109p on news that the 600 Group, up 1p at 78p, had increased its stake to 27 per cent. Wolvenhampton Steam Laundry ended 8p dearer at 38p on recent news that Concorde had taken a 20 per cent stake.

Shortages of stock again benefited builders with Blue Circle 4p dearer at 408p, Redland 4p to 180p, London Brick 1p to 79p, and BPE 1p to 279p. Newarthill rose 5p to 455p after news of a £2m disposal and profit taking clipped 9p from Barrat Developments at 239p and Wilson Connolly 7p to 231p.

Electricals were easier with more stock coming on offer. GEC slipped 2p to 668p, Racal 2p to 367p, Plessey 5p to 311p and Standard Telephone & Cables 3p to 494p. Among second liners, Farwell eased 5p to 392p but Normand Electrical edged ahead 2p to 26p.

Stores closed mixed although gains were seen in Debenhams 1p to 88p, J. Hargreaves 1p to 114p, Boots 3p to 240p and British Home Stores 1p to 158p.

Oil shares saw heavy selling following the weakness of oil shares in New York overnight. BP fell 10p to 374p, Shell 8p to 384p, Ultramar 7p to 483p, Tritel 8p to 290p and Buzmah 6p to 165p. Lasso, which reported earlier in the week, was also badly hit, dropping 2p to 392p.

A disappointing drilling report cut 6p from Premier Consolidated at 100p as London United Investments, also with a sizable stake in the project tumbled 18p to 185p.

Berkeley Exploration closed 5c dearer at 280p and KCA International 3p at 188p.

Equity turnover for March 24 was £167.849m (bargains 37,902). Active stocks according to the Exchange Telegraph were 1,350.

Traditional options: Dealers reported quieter conditions yesterday. Calls were made in Dunlop, Keith Collins Pets, French Kier, William Press at 3 1/2p, Barmat at 15p and British Car Auction at 7p. A put was arranged in Boots at 13p.

Traded options: A total of 1,632 contracts were recorded. Ral attracted 190, Shell 10, M & S 93, Land Securities 87 and Lonrho 114.

## Arthur Bell tops forecasts with interim rise to £9.7m



Mr. Raymond Miquel, chairman of Arthur Bell and Sons.

By Rosemary Unsworth  
Arthur Bell and Sons, the Perthshire distiller, exceeded market expectations with its interim results, pushing the shares up by 6p to 176p.

Pretax profits for the six months to December 31 were £9.7m, a 6.4 per cent improvement on last year's £9.2m. Turnover on last year's £112.8m to over rose from £112.8m to £127.5m. Although volume was £127.5m, overall 1980 sales were depressed by the date increases in April.

"Industry sales volume showed a 5 per cent decrease over 1979. Unfortunately this did not deter the Chancellor of the Exchequer from applying a further duty increase this month," Mr. Raymond Miquel, the chairman, said.

Export sales were £15m ahead of last year at £129m while the Scotch whisky division as a whole improved sales from £101.5m to £127.3m, and produced profits of £10.3m against £8.3m.

The glass container operation, which cost £380,000 in

voluntary redundancies, lost £580,000 compared with pre-tax profit of £871,000 while its turnover dipped fractionally to £12.4m. Mr. Miquel pointed out that this was a result of a fall in demand for glass containers common to the rest of the industry.

But he added that the dividend was expected to be back into profit by the year end because of the increase in demand in the summer for soft drinks.

Townmaster Transport improved its contribution from £11,000 to £70,000 but the result was coupled with a warning that full-year profits would be modest unless there is a improvement in the haulage industry rates as operating costs are rising sharply.

Interest charges rose from £1.6m to £2.7m but the benefit of last year's rights issue, which was 75 per cent taken up by the underwriters, should help to reduce borrowings by the year end.

The interim dividend has been increased from 3.0p to 3.3p gross and Bell is making a one-for-two scribble.

"Indications are that group pretax profit for the second half should exceed last year's £7.65m," Miquel said, but added that home demand had fallen considerably since the Budget.

## Profits dip to £5.5m at Metal Closures

By Our Financial Staff

Record overseas earnings at Metal Closures, the packaging manufacturers, prevented a sharp fall in profits last year. Even so pretax profits slipped by 5 per cent from £5.8m to £5.5m in the 12 months to December 31, while turnover rose slightly from £62.3m to £65.6m.

The 77 per cent-owned South African subsidiary was the main contributor to the overseas performance, producing a 56 per cent improvement at the half-way stage to £900,000. But United Kingdom profits were severely depressed by the drastic reduction in consumer demand which accelerated as the year went on.

Mr. John Boden, the chairman, said: "As yet, there are no signs of any improvement in the order book continues low and erratic, and with the Budget having imposed additional restrictions on consumer spending, United Kingdom profits will be under still further pressure."

The group made 400 of its 3,000 workforce redundant during the year and the poor summer was another blow for the drink manufacturing side.

The final dividend has been maintained at 4.5p gross, which with the interim gives the same total as last year at 7.7p.

## Underwriting losses soar at Eagle Star

By Richard Allen  
Insurance Correspondent

A sharp increase in industrial injury claims has produced spiralling underwriting losses at Eagle Star, Britain's biggest insurer of employers' liability.

The group's total loss on general insurance leapt from £18.8m to £52.3m last year and even this figure was struck after the group had drawn £10m from its catastrophe reserve.

Despite the underwriting setback, Eagle Star managed a slight increase in pretax profits from £64.2m to £69.9m, thanks largely to a rise of almost a quarter to £74m in investment income. The group is paying a final dividend of 7.86p gross, taking the total for the year up by almost 17 per cent to 15p gross.

The outcome disappointed the market, which had already been shaken by poor results from Prudential Corporation, an Eagle's share price fell 16p to 242p.

A spokesman said last night that the huge underwriting loss had been struck after the group had increased its special reserve to cover industrial liability claims by £36m to £157m. He said that the liability account had suffered from intense competition resulting in premium growth and the effect on claims costs of the recession.

Lack of available jobs meant that workers injured one form of employment could not be offered lighter duties elsewhere with a consequent rise in claims for loss of earnings. Eagle Star is also being hit by increasing claims for industrial deafness, sometimes policies dating back more than 30 years.

But it will contain no details of the rumoured capital restructuring of the group—let alone the proposed takeover by the Lloyds Bank Group.

The circular, virtually a prospectus to have the shares repurchased after they were suspended at 12p a month ago.

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## Latest results

Company	£m	£m	Earnings per share	Div	Pay	Year's total
Armstrong (F)	4.32(3.65)	0.14(0.11)	0.81(0.54)	Nil(0.14)	22/5	Nil(0.14)
Arthur Bell (I)	48.8(56.8)	0.74(0.38)	0.81(0.41)	0.55(1.01)	22/5	22/5
A. Beckman (I)	6.37(7.24)	0.09(0.02)	3.8(2.82)	1.95(1.95)	25/5	—
Bestobell (F)	137.5(112.8)	7.19(2.1)	15.6(14.8)	2.33(2.12)	7/5	(6.0)
Bird, Mohair (F)	119.1(106.0)	7.72(6.42)	7.1(6.5)	7.1(6.5)	2/6	12.2(11.0)
R. Carrwright (F)	35.19(25.5)	0.22(0.15)	33.03(8.9)	2.81	15/5	3.77(3.77)
Church & Co. (F)	8.7(8.1)	0.18(1.1)	4.5(11.08)	2.0(—)	15/5	3.0(4.62)
City of Aberdeen (I)	32.24(29.3)	1.96(1.1)	28.6(50.8)	5.5(5.0)	10/4	8.0(7.5)
Clifford's Dairies (F)	4.33(2.44)	0.23(0.72)	4.23(4.53)	4.35(—)	14	13.9(10.91)
Compo Bldgs (I)	49.4(41.6)	2.15(2.27)	21.9(17.2)	2.75(—)	22/5	4.0(3.0)
Eagle Star (I)	664.2(572.5)	0.16(0.13)	3.6(4.1)	—	—	—
Five Fords (F)	8.7(8.1)	0.18(1.1)	4.5(11.08)	2.0(—)	15/5	3.0(4.62)
Garton (R)	10.9(12.9)	0.12(0.56)	3.22(23.5)	1.0(3.5)	1/7	4.15(6.85)
Glaxo (F)	19.6(17.4)	0.68(0.16)	1.0(1.1)	2.0(1.0)	1/6	3.1(7.5)
Metal Closures (F)	65.6(62.3)	3.5(3.1)	16.9(20.4)	3.2(3.2)	—	5.4(5.4)
Prudential (F)	170(143)	4.23(4.53)	8.6(11.9)	8.6(11.9)	—	11.9(5.1)
Rockware (F)	19.8(19.18)	0.47(5.18)	0.29(20.2)	2.10(4.32)	—	2.10(6.53)
Sirdar (I)	14.3(12.02)	2.87(3.18)	9.8(8.1)	1.1(—)	—	2.2(2.0)
Slough Est. (F)	11.4(10.1)	0.86(1.07)	14.1(19.5)	3.85(—)	14/5	—
Wolvenhampton (F)	24.5(23.4)	0.7(0.87)	7.13(5.6)	1.66(1.4)	26/5	2.76(2.3)
Woolstonholme (F)	14.6(15.5)	1.13(2.06)	15.18(26.1)	4.35(—)	2/6	6.29(6.29)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence. Earnings in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. \*Loss. †Forecasts. ‡Net.

## BP Oil profits in UK fall to £72m

By Our Financial Staff

Operating profits of the United Kingdom refining and marketing operation of BP Oil fell from £155m to £72m in 1980; and on a current cost basis show a £73m loss. The current cost loss in 1979 was £78m.

Sales and operating revenue in 1980 totalled £3,396m against £2,707m. In the last quarter of 1980, the United Kingdom operations were making a historic, as well as a current, cost loss, and the 1981 outlook is "gloomy", thanks to lower industrial demand, surplus refining capacity and intensified competition.

## Redundancy and interest costs hit Rockware

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Redundancy costs and soaring interest charges wiped out most of Rockware Group's profits in 1980, leaving only £472,000 pretax compared with a £5.2m profit in 1979.

After United Glass, which reported a turnaround to losses of £5.6m pretax last month, Rockware is the second largest glass container maker in the country with about 30 per cent of the market.

Demand for glass containers collapsed from last April onwards as customers destocked. Group turnover rose by 19 per cent to £169.8m but volume in the glass division fell about 9 per cent with supplies to the wines and spirits industry worst hit.

Mr. John Craigie, chairman, said that he thought the worst was over but he saw little sign of improved demand. However, he expected Rockware to benefit in 1981 from cost-savings and lower interest rates. He did not expect further massive redundancies.

Poor results and losses in the second half had been expected after the warning which accompanied a recovery in first-half profits from £1.2m to £3.5m.

The drop in plastics from £2.5m to £1.1m was mainly due to a £1m downturn at Alidex—the flexible packaging company—and a small overseas loss. The plastic bottle companies held up relatively well in spite of lower demand. The small engineering division re-

ware £3m in exceptional items—£2 more than in the previous year.

The divisional breakdown of profits before interest but after redundancy costs showed the glass division down from £5.9m to £4.4m. This side bore most of the redundancies and the steeply rising costs were not covered by price rises. Rockware is now putting through an 8 per cent price rise.

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covered from losses of £321,000 to an £88,000 profit, although the trend deteriorated in the second half.

Interest charges were nearly doubled from £2.7m to £5.3m, reflecting higher working capital needs during the year as stocks rose. Rockware reduced stock levels towards the end of the year but borrowings at the year-end were still about £10m higher at £39m compared with shareholders' funds of £61m.

Capital spending in 1980 was cut back to below the previous year's £20.4m.

After tax, dividends and other costs, Rockware made a net loss for 1980 of £531,000 compared with a £1.7m profit.

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## Briefly

Hampton Trust: Consents of operators, Hughes and Hughes of Texas, and of Minister of Mines for the State of Western Australia have not yet been obtained in connection with Hampton's purchase of the 3.5 per cent interest in West Australia oil and gas exploration permit EP 100.

Compo Holdings: Pretax profit for half year to September 25, 1980 £162,000 (£128,000). EPS 3.6p (4.11p). Board expects a similar performance for second half year. Newbold and Burton Holdings: Mr. V. F. Burton, chairman, told annual meeting that although order books are lower than normal at two of group's four companies, and while margins remain very tight, all companies are currently operating profitably.

West Hampshire Water: Offer for sale by tender of £2m 8 per cent redeemable preference stock 1986. Minimum price of issue £102 per cent. Amount of stock applied for was £5.74m. Lowest price to obtain a partial allotment was £102.25.

Kenn and Scott: Newcast Investments have an interest in 331,500 shares (8.77 per cent).

Jamaica Sugar Estates: Offer by Mr. Nicholas de Savary has become unconditional. Offer accepted in respect of 22,577 shares (0.7 per cent) which with shares held by him and associates amounts to 1.62m shares (50.1 per cent).

Woolstonholme Bldg: Turnover for 1980 £44,66m (£15,52m). Pretax profit £1,133m (£2,021m). EPS 15.18p (26.1p). Dividend total 5.75p net (same).

Clifford's Dairies: Turnover for 1980 £49,63m (£41,63m). Pretax profit £22.12m (£22.7m). EPS 21.9p (£22.2p). Dividend 4.0p (3.0p) net. LCA pretax profit £1.71m (£1.96m).

Dares Estates has exchanged conditional contracts for acquisition by a subsidiary Dares Realty of whole of issued share capital of, and certain loan notes issued by North San Diego Land Inc., a California corporation, for 8878 shares.

Nezretti and Zambra: Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation yesterday acquired 40,000 ordinary shares in Nezretti at 24p.

CEFC, an associate of Nezretti, intends to assist these shares to the offer from Western Scientific Investments.

Wilkinson Warburton: Sales £24.5m for 1980 (£23.4m). Pretax profit £719,504 (£679,000). Dividend held at 8.58p gross. EPS 44.05p (15.77p).

File Forge: Turnover for 1980 £8.27m (£6.91m). Pretax profit £302,500 (£269,000). EPS 16.41p (£12.79p). Dividend 5.71p gross (4.77p gross). CCA pretax profit £357,000.

A. Beckman: Pretax profits for half year to Dec 31, 1980, up from £525,000 to £595,000 on turnover down from



## FINANCIAL NEWS

## Brit Mohair down 85 pc with tough year ahead

The recession slashed profits of British Mohair Spinners by 85 per cent from £1.5m to £226,000 in 1980, and after adjusting for inflation there was a loss of £510,000. However, after adding a tax credit and a release of deferred tax, the group had attributable profits of £3.7m against £1.1m.

Earnings a share were therefore up from 8.5p to 33p but the dividend was held at 5.38p gross.

## No dividend from AC Cars

AC Cars, reporting a deficit for the second year running, is not paying an ordinary dividend for the 12 months to September 30, 1980, compared with 0.2p gross for the preceding year.

Turnover expanded from £3.5m to £4.12m, but the after-tax loss increased from £117,500 to £143,200. However, with a profit of £892,000 from extraordinary items—compared with a profit of £29,000 last year—AC has a net surplus of £764,000, against a loss of £100,000.

## Profits tumble at R Cartwright

Last year, pre-tax profits of R. Cartwright (Holdings), makers of door and window furniture, etc., slumped to £185,000, compared with 1979's record figure of £1.13m. Turnover slipped from £8.8m to £8.72m. Under C.A. there is a pre-tax loss for 1980 of £206,000, compared with a 1979 profit of £79,000.

The total dividend is being cut from 6.6p to 4.28p gross.

## CH Pearce agrees acquisition

C. H. Pearce and Sons has agreed in principle to acquire British Shipbuilders's wholly-owned subsidiary R. Harris and Sons (Builders) for £457,000 and the immediate repayment of a £750,000 loan made by British Shipbuilders to Harris. The net book value of the assets being acquired is £443,000.

Pre-tax profit of Harris for the year to March 31 was £363,000 and for the 11 months in February 28 the total is not expected to be less than £360,000.

## Aberdeen Land down sharply in first half

Taxable profits of City of Aberdeen Land Association slumped from £756,000 to £232,000 in the half year to December 31. However for the full year profits are expected to reach £850,000 despite the absence of last year's exceptional property profits which help the total to reach £1.05m.

The interim dividend is raised from 4.54p gross to 6.07p.

## Caparo offer for CMT unconditional

Caparo's offer for Central Manufacturing and Trading group has become unconditional. Its total stake is now some 30.06 per cent of the equity.

Acceptance of the offer were received in respect of 18,000 shares (0.07 per cent).

Before the offer, Caparo held 16.8m shares (21.46 per cent) and during offer period has acquired a further 7.53m (28.51 per cent).

## Bank Base Rates

Bank	Rate
ABN Bank	12%
Barclays	12%
BCCI	12%
Consolidated Crdis	12%
C. Hoare & Co.	12%
Lloyds Bank	12%
Midland Bank	12%
Nat Westminster	12%
TSB	12%
Williams & Glyn's	12%

\* 7 day deposit on basis of £10,000 and under 9% up to £50,000 9% over £50,000 10% over £50,000 10% over £50,000

1980 21 High Low Company Price Change Divs Yld P/E

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited  
27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 5EB Telephone 01-621 1212  
The Over-the-Counter Market

1980 21 High Low Company Price Change Divs Yld P/E					
75 39	Airsprung Group	64	—	6.7	10.5 5.8
50 21	Armitage & Rhodes	50	—	1.4	28.5 20.6
192 92	Bardon Hill	189	—	9.7	5.1 7.1
98 88	Deborah Services	93	—	5.5	5.9 4.6
126 88	Frank Horsell	107	—	6.4	6.0 3.4
110 39	Frederick Parker	48	—	1.7	3.5 20.9
110 73	George Blair	73	—	3.1	4.2 —
124 59	Jackson Group	107	—	6.9	6.4 4.1
110 103	James Burrough	118	—	7.9	6.7 9.7
334 244	Robert Jenkins	325	—	31.3	9.6 —
55 50	Scruttons "A"	51	—	5.3	10.4 3.7
224 215	Torday Limited	215	—	15.1	7.0 3.7
23 9	Twinlock Ord	9	—	—	— —
90 69	Twinlock 15% ULS	72	—	15.0	20.8 —
56 35	Unilock Holdings	46	—	3.0	6.5 7.1
103 81	Walter Alexander	100	—	5.7	5.7 3.5
263 181	W. S. Yeates	260	—	12.1	4.7 4.2

## Change of strategy boosts Bestobell

By Margaret Pagano

Bestobell's concentration over the last year on the fast-growing aviation industries and on consolidating growth sectors at home and overseas has paid off.

A 20.3 per cent advance in pre-tax profits in the year to December 31, 1980, was made against £6.42m. Sales at the controls, energy engineering, aviation and consumer products group were 12.3 per cent up to £119.1m, against £106m.

The final dividend is lifted by 1.5 pence to 10.14p gross, making a total payment of 17.5p gross. This compares with 15.7p gross in 1979.

Trading continued the improvement seen in 1979 when profits rose by a third, and Bestobell defended its lead against a bid from BTR, which now holds a 23.1 per cent stake.

It reflects the strategy over the last year of consolidation and shifting resources into potential growth areas while improving cash flow in others facing decline.

Mr Sandy Marshall, the chairman, said yesterday that despite the difficult economic climate the group had improved trading overall and seen a marked strengthening of the balance sheet. Gearing is down to 36 per cent from 46 per cent in 1979. The sale of Bestobell's former headquarters, Stoke House, released £1.5m which has gone to reduce borrowings.

Overall growth had been modest, Mr Marshall said, with trading and profit margins in the United Kingdom improving in the second half with the fall in inflation. Trading profit was up 22 per cent, giving two overseas companies, in

southern Africa and Australia, showed significant growth. A split of the profits, contribution from United Kingdom and overseas activities is not yet available but is estimated at about 50-50. The total value of export sales was £12.5m, 25 per cent of United Kingdom sales, and a 35 per cent increase over 1979.

Dr D. Denny, head of Bestobell Aviations Products, said profits from overseas and home aviation components had grown by 27 per cent over 1979. Orders have been received for the next two years and above-average growth is expected again this year. Last year the division added the Avica group to its fold.

Some 50 per cent of aviation products are exported from Britain.



Mr Sandy Marshall, chairman of Bestobell.

## Church pays more despite 37 pc fall in profits

By Our Financial Staff

Northern-based shoe manufacturer and retailer Church & Company made £1.95m pre-tax last year, 37 per cent less than in 1979. High interest rates and "indifference" trading conditions are blamed.

The final dividend has been raised 10 pence, however, leaving the total payout 6.66 pence higher at 11.4p gross for the year to December 31. The shares rose 7p to 165p yesterday.

The group's trading profits fell 32 per cent to £2.73m, and interest costs rose 44.3 per cent to £7.66m. The group's wholly owned subsidiary, A. Jones & Son, suffered a £492,000 decline to £1.13m in its profits before tax, but maintained dividends worth £236,000 to its parent company.

Church's current cost profit before tax of £1.07m is worked out using a trade index which the board, chaired by Mr Ian Church, considers shows a fair picture of Church's current cost earnings per share of 12.3p leave the net dividend 1.6 times covered.

## Armstrong Equipment slumps in first half

By Catherine Gunn

The steep fall in demand for automotive products, components for white goods and fastenings slashed profits at Armstrong Equipment to just £741,000 before tax at its December 28 interim stage, against £4.4m a year earlier. The interim dividend has been halved to 0.75p gross. The shares fell 2 1/2p to 42 1/2p yesterday.

Prospects are a little brighter in the second half even if demand does not recover, thanks to a stringent programme of de-stocking and redundancies embarked on earlier this year. Last year Armstrong made £8m pre-tax.

Mr Harry Hooper, the chairman, said yesterday that if demand recovered by 50 per cent, the slimmer group could be very profitable. But the outlook for the light engineering industry remained uncertain, he said. Turnover fell by 14.1 per cent to £49.9m in the first half.

cutting programme to reduce inventory by £20m at the rate of £1m a month. It hopes to resume expansion programmes next year.

However, redundancies cost the group £2.42m by the interim stage with more to come this half. Most of those came from the British workforce, though the loss-making French operation was also trimmed back. Overseas operations produced £850,000 profit in total with most of them doing well. But group trading profits were halved, at £3m. Armstrong Fastenings produced £300,000 and Cornercraft performed "a bit worse, but still did quite well".

Though most of the group's operations have been hard hit by the recession, its small aerospace side is doing well, as is the Ford Motor company, and in motorbikes at home, where three recent acquisitions have given Armstrong the expertise to produce and race a range of racing bikes, with an eye to making motorbikes for the ordinary road user within two years.

## 600 Group lifts stake in Pratt to 26.9pc

By Peter Wilson-Smith

The 600 Group has raised its stake in F. Pratt Engineering to 26.9 per cent, including options to buy further shares. The shares came from family holdings of Mr Anthony G. Pratt, who stepped down as Pratt's chairman in February and is now president.

Earlier this month the 600 Group, which has close business links with Pratt, bought 690,000 shares in Pratt at 12.2p, giving it a 12.7 per cent holding. The seller was Mr John Bentley's Bardsey, which had made an unsuccessful market raid on Pratt and expressed interest in making a bid. After the sale of Pratt's retail optical subsidiary for £4.5m and the sharp rise in its shares, Bardsey changed its mind.

Pratt is strategically important to the 600 Group, as exclusive supplier of chunks for the 600 Group's centre lathes. The 600 Group has been moving to protect this interest, although Sir Jack Wellings, chairman, reiterated yesterday

that there was no "present intention" of making a bid.

The 600 Group is paying 10.7p for 257,125 of the Galtier-Pratt shares and has an option to buy another 520,500 at the same price. The option, which lapses on July 31, will definitely be taken up, Sir Jack said.

Pratt's new chairman, Mr William Friggens, said he was not concerned about this latest deal but welcomed the 600 Group's shareholding. He did not expect a full bid.

Maurice James Industries, headed by recently appointed Pratt director Mr Maurice James, has also been buying Pratt shares. It disclosed a 250,000 (4.6 per cent) stake bought at 10.9p on March 11 and 13. In February Mr James bought 115,000 shares at between 8.0p and 9.0p.

The Stock Exchange is holding a preliminary inquiry into dealings in Pratt shares in February—the period covering the market raid and sale of a subsidiary.

## International

## Deutsche Babcock tumbles

Deutsche Babcock, the West German metal products and industrial equipment group, said yesterday that net group profits fell to DM24.1m (£3.2m) in the year to last September 30, from DM10.9m the year before. Turnover rose to DM4,980m from DM4,420m.

Looking to this year, the group said it feared an increase in the political and economic risks of foreign business, which accounted for 54 per cent of incoming orders last year.

Cuts in West German state spending could also affect results, particularly in the power station sector where the outlook was uncertain because of delays in authorizing projects, the group said.

It plans to concentrate on developing energy-saving processes, coal-fired power stations and coal gasification projects.

## Hiram Walker note

Hiram Walker Holdings is floating a £25m, five-year note issue bearing 14 per cent annually through a Eurobond syndicate led by S. Warburg. The note, due on April 15, 1986, will be guaranteed by Walker Home Oil, a Canadian-based holding company that accounts for the energy and whisky operations of Hiram Walker.

Final terms, including the issue price, will be fixed March 31. The notes are not callable and will not be amortized.

## P and O Australia issue

P and O Australia, 75 per cent owned by Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation of the United Kingdom, said it will make a one-for-three share issue to raise \$19.9m (£8.32m). The \$8.33m new one-dollar shares will be issued at a premium of \$1.40 each and will rank for dividends paid from earnings in the current half year to June 30.

## Garton cuts payout as profits continue to fall

By Michael Clark

After announcing its fourth consecutive downturn in annual profits, Garton Engineering has been forced to reduce its final dividend for the first time in its history.

Pre-tax profits for 1980 show a fall of £738,000 to £125,000 on turnover reduced by £1.92m to £10.9m. This has cut earnings per share drastically from 23.54p to 3.22p. After paying an unchanged interim dividend of 4.5p gross the board is now recommending a final dividend of 1.42p, making a total of 5.9p against 9.5p last year.

Mr Aubrey Garton, chairman, blames the fall on an across-the-board downturn in all the group's activities caused by the severe fall off in United Kingdom industrial activity and the high value of the pound.

Mr Garton declined to comment on progress during the first quarter. He said that say

improvement would depend on subsequent fall in interest rates and sterling. Demand, he added, remained poor and there was no significant improvement in view yet.

News of the shortfall in profits saw the share price tumble 4p to a new low of 40p. During this period, the group undertook a substantial rationalization programme which resulted in the closure of two small units and the loss of 450 jobs from its 1000-strong workforce. The redundancies cost around £300,000, which was taken out below the line, but has meant a return to full-time working. Short-time working began in June last year.

At present, stock levels are valued at £4.2m with finished materials accounting for £2.5m, an increase of £300,000 on the corresponding period. Borrowing stand at £1.5m or around 30 per cent of shareholders funds.

## Northern Mining's hidden appeal

While attention has been focused on the multi-billion dollar bids galvanizing Wall Street, Australia has been host to some manoeuvring of its own. A great deal of interest surrounds a small company called Northern Mining, and, as characteristic of the Australian mining scene, the picture is highly complex.

Northern Mining is a typical exploration company, living on hope as much as earnings. It has made a loss in most of the years since its foundation in 1969, although modest profits have been earned recently.

Northern has never paid a dividend, and has raised capital by share placements, later rewarding shareholders with another higher-priced issue.

Yet in recent weeks the share price has moved up strongly on persistent rumours of a takeover. Yesterday the shares were fetching about \$A2.80, which capitalized the company at \$A48m (£24m).

The rumours were proved largely correct. Endeavour Resources, another exploration company, in which the powerful and fast growing Bond Corporation, headed by the Western Australian entrepreneur Mr Alan Bond, holds 40 per cent, took a 10 per cent placement of Northern shares and then raised its stake to just under 20 per cent. The operation cost \$A8.97m.

## Mining

Innocent enough, you might think. But it transpired that another party was interested in Northern, the National Mutual Life Association of Australia.

This institution has a taste for the more speculative and of the mining market—rather a contrast to City counterparty—and was partly responsible for re-living Poseidon, as well as making a bid for BH South.

National Mutual bought a sizable line of Northern shares from Mitchell Costa, the British trading and plantations group, last October. The stake was built up to 10.5 per cent, although a couple of weeks ago it was reduced to 9.5 per cent.

The discovery of this holding prompted Mr. Rees. Towle, Northern's chairman, to offer the blocking placement of 10 per cent to his opposite number at Endeavour, Mr Eric Webb. Undeterred, National Mutual is reported to have been in the market again for Northern shares.

So what is Northern's attraction? It is simply a modest 5 per cent stake in the Ashton Joint Venture, the developer of the Argyle diamond deposit in Western Australia. The dominant partner in Ashton is

Consolidated Rio Tinto of Australia, controlled by RTZ, which has 56.8 per cent. Ashton Mining has 24.2 per cent, AO (Australia) 4.9 per cent, and Tanasut, part of Tanks, 9.1 per cent.

Despite scrupulously issued quarterly reports about progress at Argyle, the partners in the venture are widely and increasingly suspected in Australia of underplaying the deposit's potential. There has been speculation that the venture will decide later this year to go ahead with a full mining project. If the venture were to choose to install plant capable of meeting the deposit's full potential immediately rather than building up gradually, the cost could be \$A300m.

Northern's share would be \$A15m over about three years, more than the company can currently afford. That, combined with the assumption of high profits from Argyle, make Northern ripe for a takeover.

But it does not mean that Mr Bond will be the one to acquire Northern. It would be typical of the man to amass a strategic stake just to force another bidder to offer a higher price. National Mutual thinks the same way.

Australia's mining entrepreneurs have little to learn from Wall Street.

Michael Prest  
Mining Correspondent

## Business appointments

## Changes at N M Rothschild

Mr Michael Richardson will become a director and head of corporate finance at N. M. Rothschild & Sons on June 1 with the title of managing director. He will replace Mr. J. H. C. Cazenove & Company on April 30.

Mr John Craig will become the managing director in charge of banking division. Mr. Nicolas McAndrew will become the managing director in charge of investment division. Mr John London will become the managing director in charge of overseas operations and Mr David Sofer Walker will become vice-chairman. Mr. Anthony Ait, Mr Alan Dean, Mr Russell Edey, Mr Stuart McDonald, Mr Paul Myer, Mr Roger Salmon and Mr Gordon Young will join the board on April 1.

Mr Rm Worden is the new National Westminster Bank representative in Sydney. Since 1979 he has been an assistant regional manager in the Asia and Australia regional office based in London. He succeeds Mr Roger Barria who returns to the United Kingdom on completion of his tour of duty.

Mr Alan Woltz has been appointed managing director of LRC International. He has been president of LRC's North American division and the group's chief operating officer since November, 1979. Mr John Forsyth, the managing director of LRC's European Division, who joined the group in 1967, becomes deputy managing director of LRC International.

Mr G. A. Hazard is to join the board of Foster, Mc W. T. Sanders is resigning from the board to take up an appointment abroad. Mr David H. I. Jenkins has been appointed sales director of Kwik-Fit-Kwik.

## Eastern Produce acquisition

Eastern Produce (Holdings), the tea plantation-to-insurance broking group, has bought a £1m 29.9 per cent stake in Unochrome Industries, the metal finishing and heat treatment group.

Eastern paid 21p a share to Conella Investments.



## SUMMARY OF GROUP RESULTS FOR 1980

**DIVIDENDS.** The Directors are recommending to the shareholders at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 8th May 1981 a final dividend of 5.5p per share payable on 15th July 1981 to shareholders on the register as at the close of business on 18th June 1981. With the interim dividend of 5.0p per share which was paid on 15th January 1981 the total dividend for the year will be 10.5p per share (1979: 9.0p). The total cost of these dividends will be £14.3m.

**RESULTS.** Investment income in the shareholders' fund increased by 24 per cent to £73.8m. Pre-tax profits of Grovewood Securities were £14.4m and with the share of associated companies' results brought the total income from investments to £88.1m (1979: £73.8m). Shareholders' long term profits were £11.8m after grossing up for income tax and corporation tax. General insurance underwriting made a loss of £32.5m (1979: £18.8m) after a transfer from catastrophe reserve of £10m. General business premium income increased by 11 per cent. Overall pre-tax profits were £68.9m against £64.3m in 1979.

	1980	1979
	£m	£m
<b>PREMIUM INCOME</b>		
Fire, accident and motor	422.4	376.7
Marine, aviation and transport	20.1	20.4
Long term—annual premiums	148.8	119.4
—single premiums	72.1	56.0
	664.2	572.5
<b>PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT</b>		
	1980	1979
	£m	£m
Investment income*	73.8	58.7
Profits of Grovewood Securities	14.4	13.2
Share of associated companies' results	(0.1)	1.0
Shareholders' long term profits	11.8	10.5
Underwriting loss	(32.5)	(18.8)
Expenses not charged to other accounts	(1.5)	(1.3)
Surplus after transfer from catastrophe reserve	88.9	64.3
Taxation	26.8	25.5
Minority interests	3.2	3.1
Net surplus for year available for appropriation	37.1	35.7
Staff profit sharing scheme	1.4	1.1
Less taxation	0.7	0.6
	36.4	35.2
Transfer to catastrophe reserve	2.0	2.0
Dividends	14.3	12.1
Balance added to retained profits and reserves	20.1	21.1

\*After deducting £2.1m in respect of interest on loan notes (1979: nil).

**GENERAL COMMENTS.** 1980 has been a most difficult year for insurance and in nearly all general accounts, both in the UK and overseas, the unsatisfactory results can be accounted for by intense competition and inflation. Additionally international and overseas results have been affected by the strength of sterling. Furthermore, world-wide industrial recession has restricted the premium growth necessary to cover the ever increasing costs of running the business. Intense competition in the UK has particularly affected the liability account.

**INVESTMENTS.** Investment income increased by 24 per cent. This most satisfactory result was assisted by the high interest rates obtainable throughout the year. The free reserves of the group, including capital appreciation on investments other than those of the long-term insurance funds, amounted to 85 per cent of general insurance business premium income.

**GENERAL INSURANCE.** Our overall result is analysed by territory in the following table which includes an estimate of that part of investment income which arises on insurance funds—

	Premium income	Underwriting result	Investment income less expenses	1980 Total	1979 Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland*	349.4	(25.3)**	46.8	27.9	23.1
Australia	18.7	(3.0)	1.3	(1.7)	(0.9)
Belgium	24.1	(2.2)	3.2	1.0	0.8
South Africa	35.2	0.6	1.9	2.5	3.4
USA	5.8	(0.1)	0.5	0.4	0.6
Other territories	8.3	(1.7)	1.3	(0.4)	0.5
Additional provision for unexpired risks (overseas business)		(0.8)		(0.8)	(0.1)
	442.5	(32.5)	55.0	22.5	27.2
Attributable to shareholders' funds		(32.5)	31.6	31.6	26.6
			86.6	84.1	53.8

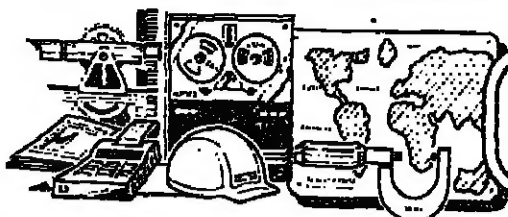
\*Including reinsurance and world-wide marine and aviation.

\*\*after transfer from catastrophe

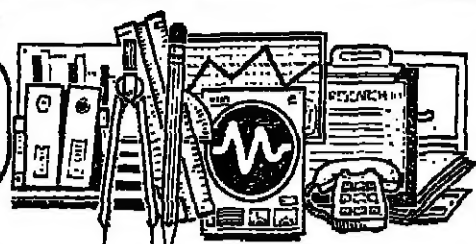








# Recruitment Opportunities



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**SALARY** (under review): starts at £5,320 and rises to £7,165. Non-contributory pension scheme.

For full details and an application form (to be returned by 24 April 1981) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke Hants, RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote: 5465/81.

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quoting Ref: 81/12/IE. Completed application forms together with a covering letter including the names and addresses of two referees should be returned not later than Tuesday, April 21, 1981.

**THE CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION**

**DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLIES AND SERVICES**

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**The Canadian High Commission**  
Personnel Division,  
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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1033-1038.







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